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spirits lead to dudgeon

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The latest music and books

A clinch through the ages

Chris Evans' cult of the in-joke

Review

The art of kissing

Do you get it?



Plus: Willie Nelson

Books: Ecstasy for some — the new Irvine Welsh reviewed

Israeli poll deals blow to peace

Netanyahu poised to take over as prime minister

Derek Brown in Jerusalem and Martin Walker in Washington

BINYAMIN Netanyahu, a man derided and dismissed as a lightweight for much of his short political career, looked last night on the verge of staging the biggest political upset in Israel's 48-year history by snatching the prime ministership from the veteran statesman and Nobel peace laureate Shimon Peres.

The results flowing in from Wednesday's national vote have profound implications for the Middle East peace process, and for Israel's fragile land-for-peace deal with the Palestinians, bitterly criticised by Mr Netanyahu.

In an Israel Radio interview broadcast yesterday, the 46-year-old front runner said, in effect, that he would freeze the peace accords. The Palestinians would be offered only limited autonomy in certain self-rule areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Mr Netanyahu, who has trimmed his earlier vow never to meet Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Palestinian president, said he could not ignore facts. But he made it clear that while he was in power, the PLO would never achieve its dream of an independent state.

"I would offer the Palestinians an opportunity to run just about every aspect of their daily lives, with the exception of security and foreign affairs. That will remain in our hands," he said.

He also insisted that Israel would remain on the Golan Heights, captured from Syria in 1967. Damascus has said that Israel must give back the territory, if there is to be any hope of peace.

In Washington, President Clinton backtracked fast from his earlier support for Mr Peres, to reach out to his likely replacement. Insisting that US policy towards Israel "will remain the same", he said: "The first big leg of the whole process of peace in the Middle East was completed by one of Mr Netanyahu's Likud predecessors. I was quite in-

What they say

"The public climate that enabled Yigal Amir to gun down Yitzhak Rabin was fostered by Binyamin Netanyahu and his cronies." — Commentator Zeev Chafetz, of the magazine Jerusalem Report.

"All I can do is look at where I keep my suitcases and feel like packing them and disappearing from here very quickly." — Leah Rabin, Rabin's widow.

"Compared to any politician in Israel, he is head and shoulders above them in world view." — David Bar-Ilan, editor, Jerusalem Post.

Interested in the comments he made about this, particularly in the last days of the election.

The main concern of US policy is to nurture what is seen as its most important strategic achievement, the emergent regional grouping of Israel, Jordan and Turkey.

With all the main voting papers counted on the ballot for prime minister, Mr Netanyahu was leading by seventenths of 1 per cent, or slightly more than 31,000 votes.

But another 150,000 so-called absentee votes remain to be counted today. Cast by serving soldiers, seamen and diplomats, they are considered certain to tip the balance further towards Mr Netanyahu.

Today's count, which may have to be continued on Sunday, after the Jewish sectarians may bring a dramatic reversal of fortune. But that, in the words of one political analyst, would involve "a miracle of biblical proportions".

Already it is clear that Mr Peres came as close as he did only because of the overwhelming support of Israel's 400,000 Arab voters. Jewish voters, disillusioned with the peace accords and fearful for their security, chose Mr Netanyahu.

There was little evidence of the wave of emotion for peace that swept the country after

the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin by a Jewish zealot in Tel Aviv on November 4. But a group of demonstrators stood at the assassination site yesterday with a poignant placard that read: "The murderer won".

Israel's 4 million voters, having defied all the forecasts in the prime ministerial poll, have also shaken the political establishment to the core in the parallel vote for the Knesset (parliament). Pointedly spurning Mr Peres's Labour Party and Mr Netanyahu's Likud alliance, they have flocked to the ultra-right Jewish religious parties.

According to current projections, in the new Knesset Labour will have 33 to 37 members out of 120, down from 44. Likud will fare worse, falling from 40 to a projected 31 seats, or fractionally over a quarter of the total. And 10 of those will be members of Likud's allied parties, Tsomet and Gesher.

Three Jewish orthodox groups are among the parties which have prospered. Between them they have won 24 parliamentary seats — 10 more than their combined previous strength. In the centre, Natan Sharansky, the former Soviet dissident hero, has won seven seats with his Russian immigrants party.

Although Mr Netanyahu has plenty of building blocks for a coalition, he will need all his considerable talent for political manoeuvre to satisfy the demands of potential allies for suitable rewards.

The outcome is a personal tragedy for Mr Peres, who has been a leading player in Israeli politics for 50 years and who, at 72, had seemed poised to win his first general election in no fewer than five attempts as leader of the Labour Party.

The extraordinary turnaround must have revived bitter memories of 1981, when he was prematurely announced as the winner, only to see victory snatched by Menachem Begin. This time, Mr Peres has wisely retired to the shadows to await the final verdict, and probable political oblivion.

Israel election, page 8; Leader comment, page 8; David Horowitz, page 9

'Anorexic' models cost Vogue ads



Trish Goff, the American model who appears in one of the features Mr Rees complained about in the June edition of Vogue (below) PHOTOGRAPH: PEGAN CAMERON / CONDE NAST

'The thinness of the models is not new or dramatic, but its effect is shocking all the same'

Commentary

Susie Orbach

WOW. Such are dreams made of. Omega cancels its ads in Vogue as a protest against the use of skeletal models in the June edition.

Twenty-six years ago a group of women concerned about how the uniformly skinny physical representation of females in advertisements and fashion magazines found its way into the consciousness of young girls and women had the glimmer of an idea (now taken for granted) that there was a relationship between eating problems and the image of womanhood portrayed on billboards and in magazines.

Each year as the mannequins got thinner, young women struggled to find a way to mimic those images by transforming their own bodies.

The group of concerned women dreamed of boy-



space in the world, when women attempted to be seen as more than (sexual) objects.

The campaigners were ineffectual. Bulimia, compulsive eating, anorexia entered the vocabulary. We learnt what torture such experiences were. Responsible citizens shook their heads and felt helpless about the pull of the thin imagery on their daughters.

The surprise on looking at the June Vogue is how familiar it all is. The thinness is not new or dramatic but shocking all the same.

It is the pictures of prepubescent bodies dressed up to look like sexually available women that magnetise us. The pictures combine vulnerability with an aggressive edge. They invite, magnetise and bewilder all at the same time.

But Omega has withdrawn and hopefully this will set a trend. The work of countless women and men who have campaigned against the destructive power of such images of women could receive no greater reward than to see a younger generation see pictures of beautiful women in all shapes and sizes representing the full glory of femininity.

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Company says 'distasteful' pictures could help push girls into eating disorders

Sarah Bosseley

OMEGA, the up-market watch manufacturers, struck a blow against 'famine-thin' models and junkie chic yesterday by withdrawing its advertising from the magazine Vogue, complaining that the "skeletal appearance" of women in its fashion pages might help push girls into anorexia.

"I thought it was irresponsible for a leading magazine which should be setting an example to select models of anorexic proportions," said Giles Rees, brand manager, who said he was appalled by what he termed the "extremely distasteful" pictures of thin scantily-clad women.

"It made every effort to accentuate their skeletal appearance. Since Vogue presumably targets an audience which includes young and impressionable females, its creators must surely be aware that they will inevitably be influenced by what laughably passes for fashion in these pages."

Mr Rees was offended by two fashion features in the June edition of the magazine. A picture on the contents page, captioned "Bay Watch", showed the skinny American model Trish Goff in shorts with a towel draped around her neck, trailing a picture of feature illustrating sports wear. The other feature, called "Bond Aid", featured Annie Morton in the skimpy, thrown-together, post-Train-spotting junkie look.

Vogue immediately hit back, accusing Omega of picking a fight through the media without coming to it first, although Mr Rees said he had sent letters detailing his feelings to Vogue and the trade press. He sent copies to the Eating Disorders Association, "just to let them know someone is on their side".

Alexandra Shulman, Vogue editor, said in a statement that "young women who tend towards anorexia do not get it from magazines, but from feelings of loss of self-worth that are instilled in them long before they are looking at Vogue. To them there is little



Austin: difference between Cindy Crawford and Trish Goff. They are all just thin.

Stephen Quinn, the publisher, said the magazine was careful to seek assurances from agencies on the health of the models it featured.

Mr Rees refuted suggestions that he was picking a fight for publicity purposes. "It is very much a personal thing," he said. He had opened the magazine and been shocked at what he saw, although he accepted similar images were used in other magazines. "I just thought, 'I'm going to take a stand,' he said. Nicolas Hayek, chairman of Omega in Switzerland, backed him.

Nobody in his family had suffered from eating disorders, said Mr Rees, who has a six month-old boy, "but my wife was at an all-girls boarding school in Surrey where a girl starved herself to death."

The director of the Eating Disorders Association, Joanna Vincent, welcomed Omega's move. "I would say that while these sort of media images do not actually cause eating disorders, they contribute to the problem people have in recovering from anorexia or bulimia," she said. "They also make other women feel pretty bad about their own self-image."

"We hope other commercial companies and advertisers will adopt a more responsible attitude with the fashion models they use."

Inside

walked free... a jury found him guilty of the manslaughter of her husband Malcolm at a retrial.

Britain

received backing from the West's leading economic think tank.

World News

The British government's record received backing from the West's leading economic think tank.

Finance

The pound hit new highs on the foreign exchanges after the release yesterday of figures showing record-breaking exports to Europe.

Sport

Britain's Greg Rusedski was beaten in straight sets by the former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich at the French Open.

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If you're not insured with Direct Line, up to 30% of your premium may be going up in smoke on commission payments. Our cover is approved by all the major banks and building societies. So, if you want to see how much you could save — reach for the phone. The red one on wheels.



Table with Direct Line contact information for London, Manchester, Glasgow, Birmingham, Leeds, and Bristol.

Sketch

Keeping terror off the roads



Sarah Boseley

MY DRIVING test was the most terrifying experience - no, tall the truth - the three most terrifying experiences of my life.

The second was the most memorable. Rigid with fright, I had steered my way tolerably well around the roundabouts of Farnborough in Hampshire in the family's ancient but beloved Standard 10.

So when asked to sit the new driving theory test, my immediate and overwhelming reaction was "No - please no." It made me the perfect candidate.

Two investigators came in - Maurice, the part-time psychology lecturer, and Ted, the retired accountant - perfectly nice people any other

time. We were told to read the regulations. No mobile telephones to be used, no smoking, no talking and bags on the floor, by order.

"If you do not understand, will you please raise your hand and I will come over and explain," said Maurice. We had 40 minutes to answer 35 multiple choice questions, and would be told time was running out five minutes before the end.

There were the typical numbers. A driver pulls out of a side road in front of you. You have to brake hard. You should: a) ignore the error and stay calm, b) flash your lights to show your annoyance, c) sound your horn to show your annoyance, d) overtake as soon as possible.

And there were the ones I got wrong. You are on a good dry road surface and in a vehicle with good brakes and tyres. What is the shortest overall stopping distance at 40mph? a) 23 metres (75 feet), b) 36 metres (120 feet), c) 53 metres (175 feet), d) 36 metres (120 feet).

It took none of us more than 20 minutes to finish. "That was terrible, terrible," groaned Peter Woodman, Transport Correspondent of the Press Association afterwards, clutching his forehead. "I must have failed."

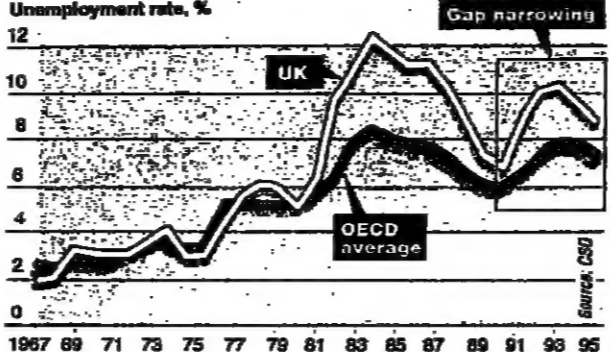
Each of the around 20 candidates at any "real" session will sit a different paper. So there is no harm in revealing that the correct answers to the above are a, a and d.

Britain's economic outlook could hardly be any brighter, says OECD

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

THE Government's record on job creation received the strong backing of the West's leading economic think tank last night in an upbeat report predicting low inflation, robust growth and falling unemployment in the years ahead.

Narrowing jobs deficit



strongly in the second half of this year and grow by 2.8 per cent in 1997. It added that the benign inflation outlook would give the authorities scope to cut interest rates if the current downturn proves more prolonged than anticipated.

upon by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, as a vindication of the Government's handling of the economy. Mr Clarke said: "This is another highly complimentary OECD report on the UK economy."

own forecast, or accept the OECD's forecast and spell out the implications for our public finances." The TUC also pointed out that the OECD's admission that the market-based approach to job creation had led to a "marked widening in income inequality, some growth of temporary jobs, a perception of less job security, and a growing polarisation between 'work rich' and 'work poor' families."

tive about Britain's outlook. Since the second world war, Britain has had a trend rate of growth of 2.5 per cent a year, but the OECD said there was scope for a higher rate of expansion without higher inflation over the next few years.

War is finally over for German sub sunk 51 years ago



A German U-boat sunk in May 1945 has arrived at its new permanent home at Birkenhead docks on the Mersey. An RAF bomber sank the U534 in Danish waters. Some believe it was bound for South America to help Nazis escape to Argentina. The boat, salvaged three years ago, was acquired by the Warship Preservation Trust

First night

Bowled over by broken dreams

Lyn Gardner

The No Boys Cricket Club Theatre Royal, Stratford East

IF OEDIPUS had not flown into a rage and killed Laius at the place where three roads met, how differently things would have turned out for him. If Juliet had a wakened just a few minutes earlier, there might have been a happy ending for her and Romeo. And if 15-year-old Abigail Sandford, demon batsman, had taken her place in the no boys cricket team and won the match that sunny Jamaican day almost 40 years ago, how different her life might have been.

Would she still have been abandoned by her father, married a man she didn't love and ended up in a poky house on a dreary English council estate unable to cope with her crack-dealing son and bolshie gang-fighting teenage daughter? Or would she have gone to university, become a nurse and conquered the world?

Wishing, suggests her childhood friend Maisie, is powerful. It helps you go places. "You know what your problem is? You've stopped wishing in a big way," she tells Abi 40 years later as she sets about trying to rectify the situation.

Uncertain future. Maisie makes the decision

to stay in Jamaica like a Caribbean Shirley Valentines returning to her roots. Abi goes back to Britain but not to drift listlessly into old age, rather fighting all the way. Simplistic? Perhaps, but played on Rosa Maggiora's ingenious, split-level set in which Abi's funny Jamaican girlhood hovers like a mirage over her current dead-end existence, Williams' drama seems to embody the aspirations and frustrations of a generation who, with such high hopes, left the West Indies in the 50s and 60s in search of a new life in Britain.

The young Abi's life in Jamaica is by no means uncomplicated or trouble-free but she and her young friends in the cricket team have such joie de vivre and are so cheerfully optimistic that they will be able to bowl the world out that it is infinitely touching given that we know what lies in store for them.

Deftly constructed, if somewhat unevenly written, the play is, above all, ideal for the Theatre Royal - accessible, involving, sentimental, directly relating to local people's lives and experiences and a play that boasts a great big heart.

On the first night, when Abi announced that she had flushed her son's crack hand down the lavatory, the audience roared its approval. When an audience member helpfully suggested that Abi might like to stab the offending son with her knitting needle the theatre erupted. You don't get that level of involvement at the Royal National Theatre, or most other theatres in the country for that matter.

New law to compensate customers for water cuts

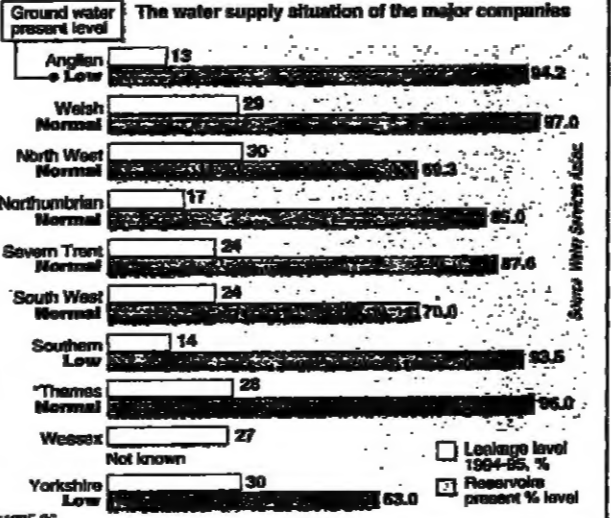
Chris Barrie Business Correspondent

A LAW to force water companies to compensate customers for cuts in supply was promised by the Government yesterday as an official watchdog released damning reports into the industry's performance on leaks.

At present the industry pays compensation for unexpected cuts in supply but it is not obliged to pay during droughts. The new measures, including £30 a day payments for businesses, would force them to do so unless there were exceptional circumstances.

The moves follow outrage last summer when Yorkshire Water was forced to erect standpipes and reservoirs almost ran dry in Wales. Mr Gummer was responding to recommendations from

Supply and demand



Ian Byatt, director general of water services, that existing compensation schemes needed to be widened. Mr Byatt said consumers should also be compensated with £25 when supplies were affected by low pressure, as was the case last summer.

He also issued damning reports into the industry's inability to staunch leaks. Warning that he would penalise companies by cutting their prices and setting man-

C&G Mortgage Rate Change

Notice to borrowers

Under the terms of our Mortgage Price Promise, C&G mortgage rates are being reduced from 1 June 1996 by 0.20% per annum.

The reduction applies to all C&G variable base rates except base rates 191 - 196 inclusive which, as they already benefit from lower rates, will be reduced by 0.05%.

Details have been sent to customers who require written notice under the terms of their mortgage.

This rate change does not apply to mortgages with a fixed or capped interest rate.

Under the terms of our Price Promise, we will review our mortgage rates again on 15 June 1996.

C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester logo and contact information: We're run to make you richer. Cheltenham & Gloucester plc, Barnett Way, Gloucester GL1 3RL.

Road deaths at record low despite increase in traffic

ROAD deaths last year were the lowest since records began 70 years ago, according to government figures released yesterday. A total of 3,821 people were killed compared with 3,650 in 1994, the previous record low.

by 2 per cent, the overall casualty rate fell 3 per cent. Car-user casualties were down one per cent to 193,992. Car-user deaths totalled 1,749 - similar to 1994. Child casualties fell 3 per cent to 43,788, including 270 deaths and 6,983 serious injuries. Pedestrian casualties fell by 3 per cent to 47,025. Deaths fell 8 per cent to 1,038.

Tom Clarke MP

AN ARTICLE in the Guardian on April 9, 1996 reported that the Conservative Party, as part of a "propaganda move", circulated a dossier to American journalists which contained an allegation that Tom Clarke,

Labour MP for Monklands West and shadow minister for disabled people, was "anti-American", having attacked the short-lived Supper Club which allegedly opposed British entry into the war against Iraq in the Gulf in 1990.

The Guardian acknowledges that these allegations concerning Mr Clarke are unfounded, and is happy to take this opportunity to set the record straight and to apologise to Mr Clarke for any distress and embarrassment caused.

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Kiranjit Ahluwalia's case widened the defence of provocation



Emma Humphreys: freed last year after her case softened law



Sara Thornton with her daughter Luise after yesterday's verdict. "I am too tired to feel a sense of victory and there has been too much pain," she said

Manslaughter verdict frees Thornton

Retrial judge rules sentence already served after finding that personality disorder drove woman to kill husband

Vivik Chandury and John Mullin

SARA Thornton, who was convicted six years ago of murdering her violent alcoholic husband, walked free yesterday after being found guilty of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

A jury of eight men and four women took almost eight hours to reach their verdict after the retrial ordered by the Court of Appeal last year.

Ms Thornton, aged 41, who denied murdering her husband, Malcolm, at their home in Atherstone, Warwickshire, in 1989 bowed and whispered thank you to the jury as the verdict was announced at Oxford crown court.

Later, both Ms Thornton and the Justice for Women group, which has been campaigning on her behalf, hailed the verdict as a victory for battered women despite the fact that the judge, Mr Justice Scott Baker, ruled that it was Ms Thornton's personality disorder that led her to kill and not provocation.

Ms Thornton said at a press conference after the trial: "I am hardly surprised. The judge is a judge and I have had seven years of this. At the end of the day I don't know how the jury found for manslaughter, whether it was provocation or diminished responsibility."

Juile Bindel, of the Justice for Women campaign, said: "I don't think you can assume that the jury didn't look very closely at provocation. Provocation was an accepted part of our case, there is no doubt about that. It was accepted in open court that Malcolm was violent and Sara was a victim of that."

"As far as we are concerned it's still a major victory."

Earlier, Mr Justice Scott Baker told Ms Thornton that he was sentencing her to five and a half years imprisonment "on the basis that your responsibility for killing your husband was diminished by your abnormality of mind."

He added: "I take into account the difficulties you had living with an alcoholic husband but nevertheless you take considerable responsibility for taking his life."

The judge told Ms Thornton she would not have to return to prison as she had served five and a half years after being convicted of murder at her first trial in 1990.

The two-week retrial heard that Malcolm Thornton, aged 43, a former police inspector, was a violent alcoholic and that his wife endured months of physical and mental abuse.

How the law changed its attitude to battering

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

THE LAW has softened its treatment of battered wives who kill since Sara Thornton was first tried for the murder of her husband.

"Battered woman syndrome", a defence developed

in the United States, had not yet gained a foothold in the British courts.

At her second trial, Ms Thornton's lawyers put forward two defences, either of which, if successful, reduces murder to manslaughter.

Either she was suffering from diminished responsibility or she had been provoked.

The case highlighted the artificiality of the law in dealing with killings of violent husbands by brutalised wives. Research shows that it is often a lottery whether the defendant is convicted of murder, which carries a mandatory life sentence, or manslaughter, where the judge

can sentence according to the circumstances.

For lawyers, running alternative defences of diminished responsibility and provocation means arguing at the same time that their client was a reasonable person, and that she was mentally abnormal.

Ms Thornton won a retrial after two landmark cases — those of Kiranjit Ahluwalia and Emma Humphreys — widened the defence of provocation.

In Ms Ahluwalia's case in 1992, the Appeal Court removed the rule that the killing must be an immediate response to the provocation. The court held that a killer who

acted not in sudden anger but after a slow boiling up could also invoke the defence.

The Ahluwalia case also opened the way for women to argue that they suffered from battered woman syndrome — a form of post-traumatic stress disorder.

The Humphreys appeal in 1995 removed the assumption that only the "last straw" could count as provocation, and allowed the courts to add up cumulative provocative acts by the killer in deciding whether a reasonable person would have reacted as the defendant did.

A further softening of the law, in Ms Thornton's own appeal, allowed juries to ask

whether not just a hypothetical reasonable person, but one with the defendant's own special characteristics, would have acted in such a way.

At Ms Thornton's original trial, her lawyers put forward a defence of diminished responsibility. Provocation was not argued.

But even with the widening of the law, it was hard to see how she could invoke the defence.

Ms Thornton's solicitor, Gareth Peirce, pointed out that yesterday's result could have been reached at the first trial if the automatic life penalty was abolished and juries left free to sentence according to circumstances.



Gareth Peirce... criticised automatic sentences

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Bright promise in the police, a lucrative job in the Middle East, then drink and despair

John Mullin and Vivik Chandury

MALCOLM Thornton began his career in the police after being awarded the book prize as the best police cadet in Blackpool. Henry Brooks, the then home secretary, presented the award.

He rose quickly through the ranks of the Met, becoming one of the country's youngest inspectors.

But he day after he secured convictions in a drugs trial, he was run over by one of the gang's associates, and suffered two broken legs. He had a long convalescence, then took on a pub, the Load of Hay in Staines, with his first wife, Moyra Friend. That is where his heavy drinking started.

They had two sons, Martin and Stuart. But the marriage ended after 17 years, and he went to Saudi Arabia as head of security for Aramco, a US oil company. He was there for nine years, and was paid about £5,000 a month, much of which was invested in property in Britain and Spain.

He married a nurse there, who was 12 years younger, and they came back to Britain. That marriage ended after two years.

He became head of security at TNT, the delivery company, in Atherstone, and it was then he met Sara, helping her find a job in tele-sales, which was later to lose because of her drinking. Alcohol played an important part in their relationship.

Mr Thornton's sisters, Jean Murray, aged 61, and Gladys Suthers, aged 51, have always protested that their brother was anything but a wife-beating drunk. It was Sara, they claimed, who drove him to drink and despair.

Martin Thornton, his son from his first marriage, who gave evidence during the retrial, got on well with his stepmother, and liked to play



Malcolm Thornton... rose quickly through the ranks

The progression of moves in the game — holding, embracing, kissing and caressing — would stop short of penetration. This caressing without the act would join souls but left the seed unspilled and did not wither the brain cells (an Aristotelian idea that still lingers, especially among football players).

Adrienne Blue

Review cover story

mortgage
ange
rrowers

ham & Gloucester

Erlend Clouston at the Dunblane inquiry hears relatives give their view of the murderer, while a detective describes the shootings

Two sides of child killer Hamilton

Inquiry hears of son's devotion to his mother

THE Cullen inquiry into the Dunblane massacre was told yesterday of the two sides of the gunman Thomas Hamilton.

His mother, Agnes Watt, aged 64, spent 35 minutes in the witness box outlining a model relationship with a loving son who would telephone every night and periodically present her with £50 gifts.

In contrast, the detective in charge of the police investigation revealed how the 43-year-old part-time youth worker shot his infant victims at close range as they lay on their gym floor.

A possible factor behind Hamilton's act was suggested with the disclosure that his string of boys' clubs was running a £15,000 deficit, and he had a personal debt of £11,000.

Mrs Watt told the second day of the inquiry that her son had made no complaints about debts or hinted at his private life when he visited her the afternoon before the killings.

Despite a dislocated domestic background, which saw Hamilton adopted by the same couple who had adopted his mother, he was a caring son who visited twice a week, sometimes handing over part of the profits from his small-scale camera business.

Earlier in the day, however the headmaster, Ron Taylor, told the inquiry that he had warned parents against enrolling their children in Hamilton's sports clubs after he became uneasy at reports of "inappropriate clothing and photography".

Mr Taylor revealed that 18 months before the killings on March 13, Hamilton had once challenged him at the school about his deteriorating reputation. "He complained that members of staff had directed children away from his boys' clubs, and would I disabuse them of the idea that he was a pervert," Mr Taylor said. He had given a "neutral" reply.

The details of Hamilton's killing of Dunblane's primary one pupils emerged from the morning evidence of Detective Chief Superintendent John Ogg. Up to then, the tribunal had skirted round the particulars of Hamilton's four-minute rampage through the school gym.

However, questioned by Iain Bonomy QC, the policeman agreed that Hamilton had stood over a group of pupils who had been either disabled or thrown down, and shot them "from a distance which must have been above the height of his hand above the children".

In his evidence, Mr Taylor, aged 46, explained how he had initially assumed that builders were responsible for the "indistinct bangs" that interrupted a telephone call he was

making from his office. He only discovered his mistake when the deputy headteacher, Agnes Awlson, crawled through the door and shouted that there was a man with a gun in the school. The headmaster ran down to the gym where he saw a scene of "unimaginable carnage".

"The air seemed to be thick with bluish smoke, and the smell of cordite was quite strong," Mr Taylor said. He noticed Hamilton moving at the far end of the gym where he had just shot himself. The head asked the newly-arrived janitor to kick away the pistol still clutched in Hamilton's left hand.

The gunman's mother told the inquiry how she had married Thomas Watt, a bus driver, in 1960, but the marriage broke up soon after their son Thomas was born in 1952. She moved back in with John and Kathleen Hamilton who had adopted her shortly after her own illegitimate birth.

According to the written statement of Mr Hamilton senior, a widower, a condition of the divorce was that baby Thomas was adopted by the Hamiltons. Thomas was a teenager before it was explained that Agnes was his mother and not his sister.

It has been speculated that Hamilton's family background laid the foundations for an estrangement from society which finally induced him to attack the school.

An alternative cause was suggested in the testimony of chief inspector Paul Hughes. A trawl through Hamilton's finances had found that they were "worse than bad", with his only official asset 3p in a Clydesdale Bank account.

Because of council tax debt, a sheriff's warrant had been issued and he faced the prospect of having possessions and money seized. His debts of £11,000 included £737 on a Debenhams account and £1,300 on the Barclaycard he had used to buy guns, meals and rail travel.

Mr Hughes said that Hamilton, who had been a draughtsman and then ran his own woodworking shop before turning to camera dealing, had sold a house for £20,000 in the 1980s and received £24,600 from the insurance of a boat destroyed by fire. Despite this, he was having difficulties with tax and national insurance. After a neighbour reported his camera business to the authorities, his income support was stopped.

Mr Hughes said that according to Hamilton's accounts, his chain of boys' clubs had suffered substantial losses "which, if the accounts are accurate, amounts to £15,907".

Mrs Watt said she knew nothing about her son's sports clubs, but had been



Ron Taylor, the school head, had warned people against enrolling their children in Hamilton's sports clubs



Lord Cullen arrives at the inquiry he is heading into the March 13 killings of 16 children and one teacher



Thomas Hamilton: his string of boys' clubs was running a £15,000 deficit and he had personal debts of £11,000

aware of his interest in guns. "I saw them once in his home," she said.

Mr Hamilton senior, a retired heating engineer who had quarrelled frequently with his adopted son before moving out of their shared Stirling home in 1992, revealed in a written statement that Thomas had joined a Stirling rifle club at 16. "All

the time I lived with Thomas I never saw him bring guns to the home," he said.

Both Mrs Watt and Mr Hamilton senior mentioned a male friend, a Jim Gillespie, who used to visit Thomas Hamilton's home in Stirling. Mrs Watt did remember him once having a girlfriend, "but she was too serious, and he didn't want to know".



Agnes Watt, mother of Thomas Hamilton, arrives at yesterday's hearing in Stirling

'He complained that members of staff had directed children away from his boys' clubs and would I disabuse them of the idea that he was a pervert'

Ron Taylor, headmaster

'Thomas was always a very calm person, certainly in the house. There were never any moods or tempers. He never showed any violence at home, he never raised his hand to me'

James Hamilton, grandfather

Blair's spiritual guide takes up post near leader's home

Madeleine Bunting
Religious Affairs Editor

PETER Thomson, the Australian vicar and spiritual mentor to Tony Blair, has taken up a job in north London, 10 minutes from the Opposition leader's home.

Mr Thomson says he plans to remain as vicar to St Luke's evangelical church in

Holloway until "after the election" and insists he "wants no role other than friendship".

He had decided to come after repeatedly receiving calls in Australia from London asking about his relationship with Mr Blair. "It just became very exciting. I wanted to be part of it. So I talked to Tony and said that if I came to England I would

want to be what I am, not to work directly in the political arena," Mr Thomson told the New Statesman and Society.

Mr Blair phoned Mr Thomson in Australia to tell him of a job vacancy in Holloway. The two have maintained a close friendship since they met at Oxford in the early seventies. Last Christmas the Blair family holidayed on Mr Thomson's farm in Western

Australia and last summer Mr Thomson stayed in the Blair's house and met many of the shadow cabinet.

At Oxford Mr Thomson, already ordained and a mature student, introduced the young Tony Blair to a range of philosophers and Christian thinkers. His Christianity was central to Mr Blair's decision to be confirmed as an Anglican.

Social workers may be missing signals of family crisis, says report

James Meikle
Community Affairs Editor

SOcial workers may be contributing to family breakdowns by failing to spot crises in homes where children need help, government inspectors said yesterday.

They expressed serious concern over low levels of support for families whose cir-

cumstances did not merit formal child protection measures or young people being taken into care.

The inspectors said many staff who first assessed children were insufficiently experienced and sometimes fell into demarcation disputes with those who might provide the support families needed.

Only one of eight local authorities visited by the Social

Services Inspectorate between 1993 and 1995 was consistently able to help families with the aim of preventing a more serious and costly intervention later.

The report did not say which this was among Solihull, West Midlands, Harrow and Ealing, in London, Lancashire, South Tyneside, Warwickshire, Birmingham and Essex.

The quality of service varied widely and in a few cases was "rather poor".

The inspectors praised some work involving young families, including those with lone parents, young people excluded from school and summer play schemes.

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "Dixie" and "PR" visible on a poster.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom center: "سنة ١٤١٧ هـ"

Austria and Germany prepared for vote to resume beef derivatives trade • Ministers in tight corner defending trawlers

Hopes rise for end to byproducts ban

Stephen Bates in Brussels

THERE were signs in Brussels last night that Britain may get its way more easily than it previously hoped in securing the lifting of the beef byproducts ban.

Germany and Austria — previously the most implacable opponents — were said to be moving towards accepting a resumption of the export trade in tallow, gelatine and season at next week's meeting of agriculture ministers in Luxembourg.

The move is likely to come despite rather than because of Britain's high-profile confrontation with the European Union, with member states prepared to lift the derivatives ban but not yet to discuss a framework for lifting the broader ban on British beef.

It remains touch and go whether an agreement on the steps Britain needs to take to get the ban lifted will be agreed in advance of the Florence heads of government summit in a month's time, which John Major has threatened to disrupt if the lifting of the ban is not then in sight.

Germany and Austria have had battles over the ban between health and agriculture ministers. But last night, as the Austrian health minister Christa Krammer was said to have accepted the derivatives posed no threat to health, it was also being indicated that Germany had no wish to remain isolated over the issue.

A commission spokesman said: "To get a majority may

VETERINARY officers of 117 countries issued a new code to cover the handling of herds in lands where BSE, mad cow disease, was present, after a meeting of the Office International des Epizooties in Paris yesterday, writes Tim Radford.

The officers agreed it was safe to export cattle and beef if the animal was born after the date when bans on feed containing animal meat and bone meal were "effectively respected", or where the animal came from a BSE-free herd and had never been fed the meat and bone meal.

The organisation insists on an absolute export ban on suspect organs from cattle carcasses, and strict surveillance, monitoring and enforcement.

The British Veterinary Association said it would urge the document on the Government and the EC.

still prove difficult but we are hoping more countries will come on board. We are worried that we may lose some because of Britain's policy of non-co-operation."

A diplomat representing Italy, which is chairing ministerial meetings, said: "The present situation is more favourable towards a partial lifting of the ban than it was before."

A charm offensive will be launched around European capitals next week, headed by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, to persuade governments of the strength of the British case. Accompanying Mr Rifkind,

who starts in Bonn by meeting chancellor Helmut Kohl, will be Mr Hogg, David Davis, the European minister, and Tony Baldry, the fisheries minister. The Foreign Secretary will meet Jacques Santer, the commission president, in Brussels on Tuesday.

It was being said that Wednesday's unusually outspoken statement criticising Britain by Mr Santer was primarily aimed at reassuring other member states that the commission was not bending too far over backwards to help Britain.

The statement, warning that Britain's policy was holding the EU hostage and counter-productive, nevertheless provoked annoyance from Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kinnock, the two British commissioners, because of the harshness of its language.

Neither were given a chance to approve it in advance of publication.

A British source said: "This is how wars start, when you escalate the language it is difficult to cool things down again. We believe that the main audience for the statement was not the UK but east and south of Brussels."

Despite the non-co-operation policy, Britain yesterday complied with the commission's demand for information about the results of tests on baby milk powder, while continuing to refuse to name the companies whose products might contain higher levels of chemicals.

Commission sources said they were satisfied with the technical report which would be circulated to member states.



A French fisherman in Lochinver, north-west Scotland, examines a part of his catch unlikely to end up in a fish and chip shop. PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN PAUL

Fishermen blame Brussels as net losses threaten thousands of jobs

James Melkie on the decline of Britain's fleet and the stormy waters ahead

BITAIN'S fishermen blame Brussels for putting them out of work by imposing quotas on catches, forcing the decommissioning of boats and failing to stop foreign "quota hoppers".

The latest flare-up — over quotas and fleets — has stirred Eurosceptics and again put ministers into a tight spot by having them fight for Britain's ports and coastal communities while recognising the desperate state of fish stocks, in some parts of Britain, up to three jobs on land depend on every job at sea.

The value of fish and shellfish landed by home boats in UK ports has fallen by nearly half since 1973, when the total was £123 million, more than £288 million in 1994 prices. The 1994 figure was £45.5 million. Another £100 million was landed abroad, but Britain is a net importer of fresh or frozen fish.

The number of fishermen in England and Wales fell from 29,000 in 1988 to 16,400 in 1990 and 11,000 in 1994. The

UK total fell from 23,476 to about 20,750 in the 20 years to the end of 1994.

The fish processing industry employs 20,000 people, and there may be thousands of chandling, supply and maintenance jobs as well. There are 3,000 fishermen, employing 7,000 people, in addition to the supermarkets that sell more than half the fish in Britain.

The "cod war" with Iceland in the mid-70s led to a massive fall in the value of cod catches — today's £65 million is a sixth of the 1973 value.

By 1980, rising imports drew demands by fishermen for controls. Later, scientists warned of impending environmental catastrophe unless catches were curtailed and the EU started to step up its attempts to reduce the sizes and distribution of all catches.

But EU fishing subsidies increased from £82 million to £379 million between 1983 and 1990 — with 20 per cent going into larger boats.

More recently, the Government implemented a £25 mil-

Shrinking industry

UK fishing industry

Size of fleet	6,569 Active	1973
	10,287 Registered	1985
Number of fishermen	22,476	

Most valuable fish, 1994 prices, £m

Cod	65.1
Haddock	61.2
Monk fish	34.3
Whiting	28.2
Mackerel	21.2

lion decommissioning scheme to reduce the size of the fleet. British boats are traditionally small — only a third of registered boats are more than 10 metres long, and far from all of the 10,300 vessels are active.

By contrast many European trawlers are factory vessels.

'It's easy for Spain to meet targets when its fleet fishes on our quota'

Spain has twice the number of boats but nearly three times the tonnage of the UK fleet. But Greece and Portugal have more boats to be getting used to our fish. I've even heard it was on the menu of one chip shop in Aberdeen."

Neil Gudgeon, the harbourmaster, who helped set up Brescot, has encountered only one problem so far — a blockade by 20 Scottish boats outside the harbour three years ago. Scots fishermen were protesting about being

Scots port welcomes Europeans

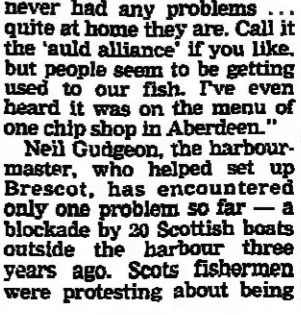
Peter Hetherington sees Spanish and French boats add a new dimension to fishing

FOR the European it must seem a nightmare — a large fishing port full of French and Spanish boats, with Germans, Faroese and a host of other nations popping in.

As fishermen fumed yesterday over planned European Union cuts in Britain's fleet, Basque and Breton vessels were happily landing at Lochinver, in north-west Scotland.

What began four years ago as a seemingly harmless exercise by the French to exploit deep water fish unknown to the British palate — such as saigre, orange roughy and grenadier — has developed into a trade which could threaten the survival of one industry leader.

Five large French trawlers, originally from Lorient, Brittany, are based at Lochinver, while a Spanish company has also established a presence. Catches go several times a



kept in port by quota restrictions while European boats could continue trawling. Tension ran high for a while. "But there are financial benefits for the local community," insisted Mr Gudgeon. "The French employ 10 people full time, and others part time, and the crews spend a lot of money." Some locals have been incensed by what they claim were "hidden" subsidies from Highland council to encourage European vessels to set up in Lochinver. But the local councillor, Francis Keith, has strongly defended the French. "They land four times as much as the local boats put together — horrible stuff with massive eyes and flattened bodies. They have revived the place." While the French concentrate on deep water fish, the Spanish prefer other species. At this time of year they are catching hake, as part of their EU quota, off Lochinver. "It's not a fish the British seem to like," said their agent, Fiona Gudgeon. "The Spanish crews like it up here. ... They're treated like anyone else and are constantly surprised how open people are — not like in the south."

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Result a bitter blow for Leah Rabin

Jessica Berry in Hebron and John Bartlett in Jerusalem

"Sorry, dear friend. We did all we could," read one of the notes of apology left yesterday on Yitzhak Rabin's grave at Mount Herzl cemetery in Jerusalem, where dozens of mourners remembered the assassinated Labour prime minister in light of the expected election victory for Benjamin Netanyahu.

"I don't want to serve in the army for that kind of people," said one visitor, Tomer Karuchi, aged 17, who is due to start his military service. "This means I would serve in an army going for war and not for peace."

Mr Rabin's widow, Leah, expressed despondency at Mr Netanyahu's poll showing. "All I can do is look at where I keep my suitcases and feel like packing them and disappearing from here very quickly. It's that bad," she told Israeli television.

After her husband was killed last November by a Jew opposed to his peace policies, Mrs Rabin blamed Mr Netanyahu for what she called an atmosphere of hate.

"If any mistake was made in the election campaign, it was that [the Labour Party] did not exploit this terrible murder fully," Mrs Rabin said.

At the site of Rabin's assassination in Tel Aviv, some supporters lay red and white wreaths at the foot of the stairs where he was shot. "Rabin was killed on November 4 - Peace was killed on May 29," read one sign.

But Mr Netanyahu's supporters were confident he could bring them both peace and security - a formula that eluded Mr Peres. "Let's hope he has the ability to heal these wounds," said Melvin Polk, a retired doctor. "This is a divided country - 50 per cent one way and 50 per cent the other."

The Likud leader is refraining from speaking until final results are released, but a spokesman said Mr Netanyahu had "a deep commitment to continuing a process of peace, peace with security, be-

tween Israel and all its neighbours, including the Palestinians".

In Hebron on the West Bank, most Arabs said yesterday that they had expected a Netanyahu victory - and they fear for their future. But several said it might not have been very different if the Labour Party had won.

"The policies of Likud and Labour are two sides of the same coin," said Mahmoud Mohammed, who used to work in a Jerusalem restaurant until the Labour government imposed a ban on most workers from the occupied territories. He was convinced that Mr Netanyahu would continue the peace process.

A leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Abdel Alim Dana, said he believed Mr Netanyahu to be less right-

'All I can do is look at where I keep my suitcases and feel like packing them and disappearing'

wing than Mr Peres. "Likud", he said, "will be more moderate. It is Likud who made peace with Egypt and withdrew from Sinai." But Mr Dana, who spent 16 years in Israeli jails, warned that a further worsening in the Palestinian economy would deepen the mood of desperation.

One shopkeeper predicted: "If Israel does not go ahead with peace we will discover a new intifada which will be stronger and more fierce... The Palestinians have always lost in war, including the intifada. So this time it will be a real intifada."

A Palestinian intelligence officer said that any intifada would lead to civil war. "The Palestinian Authority will try to prevent an intifada. That means the Palestinians will also have to fight against the Authority. I'm scared and confused," he said. "If there is intifada I will resign, because I do not want to fight the people."

John Bartlett is a correspondent for AP.



Looking up... Supporters rejoice as Israeli television puts Benjamin Netanyahu ahead of the outgoing prime minister, Shimon Peres, yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: MENAHEM KAHANA

'I will change path to peace'

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

A GOVERNMENT led by Benjamin Netanyahu will look, sound and feel very different from that led by Shimon Peres.

Much as being made, both inside and outside Israel, about the peace process continuing, about rock-steady American support and about the unchanged Israeli commitment, above all else, to their own security. But the resurgent Israeli right has its own priorities, its own goals and its own methods.

In an interview broadcast yesterday by Israel radio, Mr Netanyahu was asked about his first actions, should he become prime minister.

"The first thing that I will do is to change the path towards peace; to change it to a different direction that I believe could bring us a secure peace," he said.

On the Palestinian issue, he would take account of what has already been agreed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. But he would "ensure that the Palestinians keep to their obligations". The threat was clear: from now on the Palestinian Authority, under its president Yasser Arafat, will be expected to wage war on Islamist and other militant groups - or let Israel do it for them.

Indeed, Mr Netanyahu went on: "We will return freedom of action to the [security forces and secret service] to act against terrorists, as is

needed. I don't want to say this is an easy task... but I believe we can overcome terrorism. I am absolutely confident on that."

During the campaign, Mr Netanyahu was even more specific, making it clear that he would have no qualms about sending Israeli forces back into PLO-controlled self-rule enclaves in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Mr Netanyahu regards these enclaves, as yesterday's broadcasts made clear, as dependencies and not as the foundation for the independent state which the 2 million or more Palestinian inhabitants crave.

"I would offer the Palestinians an opportunity to run just about every aspect of their daily lives, with the exception of security and for-

sign affairs, that will remain in our hands," he said.

Mr Netanyahu also talked of immediately closing "PLO" offices operating in Jerusalem, and of strengthening Jewish settlements in Palestinian areas.

On the faltering peace talks with Syria, he was equally adamant: the Golan heights, captured in 1967, would remain in Israeli hands. "I think we have to stay in our positions on the Golan heights because they offer us the guarantee that we will not be attacked again."

And Mr Netanyahu is, if anything, on the moderate wing of his own movement. Among his chief lieutenants is Ariel Sharon, the former general who, as defence minister, masterminded Israel's bloody invasion of Lebanon

in 1982. Another, co-opted into a last-minute alliance with Likud, is the former army chief Rafael Eitan, whose rightwing Tzomet party is now well placed to demand a handsome share of the cabinet spoils.

Here lies a rub for the apparently triumphant Mr Netanyahu. Never the most popular man in his own notoriously fractious party, he outraged many Likud activists by stitching up a united electoral list with Tzomet, and with the new Geshet party headed by his most bitter rival, the former foreign minister David Levy.

They demanded and were given some of the choicest places on the list in return for their backing. Consequently - and also as a result of voters turning

away from the big established parties to favour smaller, newer lists - the Likud bloc has been reduced to just 31 parliamentary seats, and 20 of those are equally divided between Tzomet and Geshet.

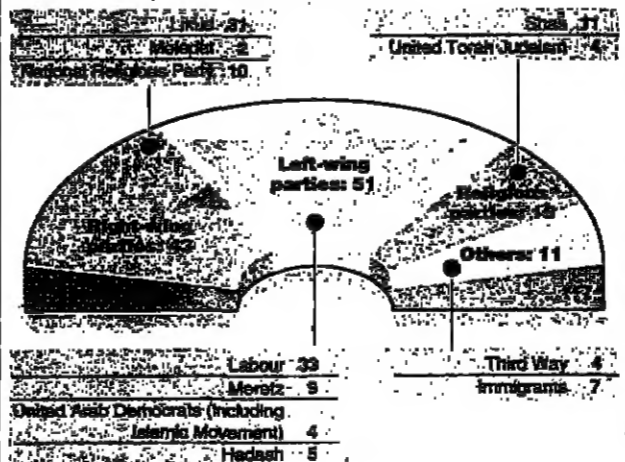
Mr Netanyahu clearly has some heavy coalition building to do. On the face of it, he can pick and choose his allies from a range of centre-right and religious party options.

But all these disparate elements would demand their share of the spoils of office - shares which would have to be denied to the diminished and disgruntled Likudniks, who may have supported the minister but seem increasingly to have lost the government.

Leader comment, page 8; The bank strikes, page 9

The fourteenth Knesset

Breakdown of seats by party in Israel's 120-member parliament or Knesset, with 98 percent of ballot boxes counted.



Rise in support for religious right stuns party chiefs

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

THE dramatic surge of electoral support for Israel's orthodox Jewish parties almost certainly owes less to religious fervour than to a radically new notion of giving voters two choices: one for prime minister and another for the party of their choice.

Having expressed a view on the key issues - security and the peace process - in the first ballot, voters were free to make a second choice on grounds of ideology, community and faith.

The system allowed the religious parties to broaden their base from the core of ultra-orthodox Jews; the black-clad *haredi* who conduct their lives and politics strictly according to the Torah.

Between them the three religious parties won 24 seats in the 120-member parliament - a performance which has astonished even their leaders.

"We thought we would get up to eight or nine. We did not think we would get 10," said Yitzhak Levy, number three on the list of the National Religious Party.

Yesterday Mr Levy sought to win a couple of extra seats. In fact, it has gone from six to 10. The smallest of the three religious parties is Yahadut Hatorah, with four seats. It wanted to join the Rabin coalition but not to share power with the secular Shinait Aloni, then leader of Labour's leftwing partner, Meretz.

Foreign leaders force smiles

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

ARAB and western governments reacted awarfully to the apparent Likud victory, hoping publicly that Benjamin Netanyahu will continue the peace process, and worrying privately that he will slow it down or destroy it.

In Europe and the United States, ministers and officials put on brave faces but all had wanted a Labour government. They are now resigned to a different pace and a more obdurate style under a new rightwing coalition.

"Our policy will remain the same," President Clinton said. "Whatever the result, the United States will continue its support for the people of Israel, for the democratic process there and for the process of peace."

The Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, who had the biggest personal stake in a Shimon Peres victory, made no comment yesterday and banned his officials from giving their reactions.

Many governments had argued before Wednesday's poll that what had been achieved since the Oslo agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in 1993 was irreversible and that the Likud leader would have to acknowledge that.

The fact that Mr Netanyahu, who was in favour of a harder position, has won, does not substantially change things," said the Spanish foreign minister, Abel Matutes.

In Britain, the Foreign Office made no comment, saying it was waiting for the final result.

The Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, said before the result: "I don't know this Netanyahu and I haven't dealt with him but I know Peres well. I will deal with the next prime minister... to the extent to which he shows flexibility."

Mr Netanyahu has said he will expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank, further delay the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestinian areas of Hebron, and refuse to discuss Jerusalem in final status talks. He has also vowed not to return the Golan heights to Syria.

The Syrian government made no formal comment though it had vacillated before the election, claiming both that there was no difference between Labour and Likud and that if Mr Netanyahu won "it would destroy all chances of peace."

Syria's foreign minister, Farouk al-Shara, said on Monday that Mr Netanyahu's vow never to return the Golan heights was a call for war.

Jordan's al-Rai newspaper said that what mattered was the next Israeli government's attitude to talks. "What we care about in any new government is its commitment to pursuing peace on the Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian tracks to take the region into a state of peace."

In Iran, which is ideologically opposed to the peace process, Tehran radio said in a commentary: "Based on the election results, it appears that the Zionist regime will tend to increase its demands in the process of compromise. This will cause new problems for the process on which America and the compromisers had set their hopes."

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Ecstasy, to coin a phrase, is the worst book yet from a writer who has been going from weakness to weakness ever since *Trainspotting* began its roll in 1993. Composed of three mid-length tales, it has neither the forgiving variety of a short story collection nor the potential for complexity opened up by the full length novel form.

Jenny Turner, *Review* page 7

0991 101320

Comrades draw sniggers

THE NEW CHINA

IN A country inundated with lung-fu action films, muscle-bound Hollywood blockbusters and smuggled soft-porn, China's crass cultural commissars might perhaps be heartened by a new video on sale in Beijing: Comrade Father.

It must be the first time since China stopped making "tractor films" trumpeting socialist triumphs that anyone has tried to market a movie with "comrade" in the title.

But it gives the Communist Party little to cheer about. This is no Maoist throwback. In the underground argot of contemporary China, a comrade — *tongzhi* — is a homosexual. Comrade Father is the Chinese title of Priest, the British film depicting the moral dilemma of a gay Roman Catholic priest in Liverpool.

The central committee may still open its meetings with cries of "comrades," but China's growing legions of the politically incorrect, or at least irreverent, now hear a subversive message in the traditional greeting of the prudish party faithful.

Language is mutating fast, most markedly in China's capital, Beijing, where what once was holy has now become profane. Andrew Higgins reports

Chinese language, like Chinese society, is mutating in ways unimaginable when Deng Xiaoping declared his programme of reform in 1978.

"Language is a mirror of society. It reflects the way we live," said Professor Zhou Yimn, author of a dictionary on modern Beijing vernacular, the capital's gritty street mandarin.

"China has changed so fast in recent years that our language has had to find new ways to express phenomena that either didn't exist before or were never talked about."

The phrase "worker, peasant, soldier" no longer refers to the Maoist trinity but means a 50 yuan bank note, which bears the image of the communist triumvirate. "Great unity," the propagandists' favourite slogan, now refers to a 10 yuan bill.

Other linguistic growth areas are sex and corruption, where outdated cant from the revolution has found a new lease of life. Hand grenades and packs of dynamite — essential props in communist films about the civil war — now refer to bottles of cognac and cartons of cigarettes, the basic units of bribery.

A "Mao movie" does not mean a feast of propaganda but a pornographic video. The reworking is a play on the character *mao*, which means hairy or fuzzy, though etymologists argue over whether this refers to public hair or the grainy quality of low-grade pirated foreign skin-ticks.

Authorities make periodic and fruitless attempts to halt what they regard as linguistic vandalism. The state language commission held an emergency meeting late last year on how to "purify our mother tongue and expand people's excellent culture".

English and other Western words have made only shallow inroads. Unlike Japanese, which uses both ideographs and a phonetic alphabet, Chinese offers no simple way to incorporate alien sounds.

When China last reached out to the wider world, before the 1949 revolution, it borrowed the English word "modern" — *mo-dern*. But the import, which makes no sense in written Chinese, quickly withered.

The new Beijing slang for kiss — *hei-wei* — will probably go the same way. Likely to be more enduring is *mi*, Beijing

argot for young girl. It not only sounds something like "miss" but the Chinese character chosen to transcribe the sound means "honey". Another survivor might be *ni-qi*, as in mini-skirt. Written in characters, it means "enchants you".

The most potent saboteur of standard Chinese, however, lies not outside but inside the Chinese language. The corruption of "comrade", like many such acts of subversion, began with Cantonese speakers in Hong Kong and spread stealthily north through the barriers of dialect that divide

stormed the barricades of standard mandarin.

"The power of a language or dialect is determined by economics," said Professor Zhou, who believes the fad for Cantonese, emanating from wealthy Hong Kong and the boom towns of Guangdong province, mirrors a spread of Shanghai slang decades ago when that city was seen as the acme of wealth and sophistication.

Many Cantonese imports are well-established, much to the chagrin of linguistic purists. A cab in Beijing is no longer a *chuanqiye*, a cumbersome mandarin word meaning rental petrol vehicle, but a *di*, a loan from the Hong Kong Cantonese *dikei*, itself an approximation of the English word "taxi".

The free-market demolition of job security has forced mandarin speakers to cope with the previously unthinkable prospect of getting sacked. Again Cantonese has come to the rescue. A boss who wants to cut costs must "stir-fry squid", a process that reduces and mangles staff.

"The current linguistic chaos has two relatively prominent manifestations," fumed the People's Daily. "One is the infiltration of Hong Kong dialect and the other is that vulgar and unbearable slang has moved from the corridors into the inner chambers."



Tong zhi, once just 'comrade', now slang for homosexual.

spoken Chinese into a plethora of mutually unintelligible tongues, but which are similar enough in their written forms to make linguistic infection easy.

Through Hong Kong newspapers, television, and millions of visits to China by Cantonese-speakers from the British colony, new words and new meanings have

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Model kids... Five thousand young children gather in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, to induct new members of the Children's Pioneer Group which recognises hard work and good behaviour. The children then visited the Mao mausoleum. PHOTOGRAPH: LOS RAMONDO

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News in brief

Judge allows terror suspect to conduct own defence

PROSECUTORS fear that a New York terrorism trial will be transformed into a circus, after a man accused of plotting to blow up 11 United States airliners was yesterday allowed to conduct his own defence, writes Ian Katz in New York.

Judge Kevin Thomas Duffy allowed Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, a British-educated alleged explosives expert, to defend himself against charges that he planned a day of carnage that would have claimed the lives of up to 4,000 passengers.

"What you're doing most likely is guaranteeing your own conviction," Judge Duffy told the Islamic activist who prosecutors fear will attempt to use the trial to air his anti-Israeli and anti-American views.

Mr Yousef, aged 28, told the jury: "I want you to keep in mind that even though defendant Yousef is not a US citizen, and doesn't speak the way you speak, that he is a person just like you."

Mr Yousef faces trial later this year for masterminding the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing. He and his co-defendants, Abdul Hakim Murad and Wali Khan Amin Shah, face life in prison if convicted of the airline plot.

Clashes mar Kashmir poll

ONE person was killed and at least 30 people were injured during demonstrations against the final phase of the general elections in the Kashmir Valley yesterday.

The fatalities occurred when militants and paramilitary Border Security Force troops exchanged fire in Srinagar, witnesses said.

Troops fired in the air and used tear gas shells to break up crowds outside the main mosque, they said. At least 25 people were injured, most of them hit by tear gas shells, witnesses said.

Six journalists covering another separatist demonstration were also injured.

Shortly after voting began in Srinagar hundreds of demonstrators gathered outside the mosque, Janna Masjid.

"The troops just stormed in and began indiscriminate firing of shells at the crowd," a resident, Tariq Ahmed, said. Government officials declined to comment. — Reuter.

Air force men step down

Three US air force commanders in Europe were relieved of duty as a result of an investigation into the aircraft crash in Croatia last month that killed the commerce secretary, Ron Brown, and 34 others.

Brigadier-General William Stevens, who commanded the 86th Airlift Wing; Colonel Roger Hansen, vice-commander; and Colonel John Mazzoni, who was operations group commander at the 86th, were forced to quit. — AP.

Belarus clashes

Riot police clashed with 3,000 anti-presidential demonstrators who marched in the centre of the Belarus capital yesterday demanding that charges be dropped against opposition leader detained after a Chernobyl protest. — Reuter.

Pérez convicted

Venezuela's supreme court yesterday found the former president, Carlos Andrés Pérez, aged 73, guilty of corruption and sentenced him to two years and four months house arrest. — Reuter.

Firefighting crisis

Basic tools and cash are desperately needed to fight fires in

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Diary
Matthew Norman

IN THIS quest for the country's most amusing public-relations office, a new contender comes forward. It is British Energy. The nuclear power stations company has launched a share offer, and to this end a slickly produced "fact sheet" has arrived. Would-be investors concerned about nuclear waste will find much to assuage their fears. "In common with other organisations, such as hospitals, which produce radioactive waste, the radioactive discharges by the nuclear industry are strictly regulated," it says. So a hospital and a nuclear plant produce similar amounts of similarly radioactive material, do they? How comforting. What gives British Energy such a great chance of winning the 1996 title, however, is this: "The process of producing electricity from nuclear power is broadly similar to other types of power stations, such as coal, oil or gas," we are told, "except in respect of the source of heat". Utterly magnificent.

TROUBLE breaks out in Cambridge over the forthcoming Tripos exams, for which there has never been an examination to begin. Worried that students, unaware of this curiosity, might lose time waiting in vain for an instruction, the history faculty has asked the board of examinations to change the rule. Thrice, however, the board's chairman has written to Boyd Hilton, history director of studies, refusing the request. For one thing, he says, examiners might forget to tell the students and for another, "a harked announcement might cause nervous examiners to panic". The sweetness.

An emendation has been spotted in the Standard, in whose early edition yesterday drama critic Nicholas de Jongh (reviewing the musical Dames At Sea) wrote: "Jason Gardiner's Dick leaves me quite unimpressed." Later, though, it was "Jason Gardiner in the role of Dick..." What a lot of fuss to make about a little thing like that.

THE mystery of the Portland Thistle hotel in Manchester, which barred two friends of the Diary from coming in for a coffee at 11.30pm under the Fire Protection Act (1971), deepens. Thistle press officer Julia Record rings a senior executive and accuses the Diary of being "drunk and abusive". Touchingly, she trots out the phrase "off the record" as though this were some protection against the writs for libel and slander (to be painted the Gazza of the Guardian! The shame, the shame!) I may have to discuss with my old friend Peter Carter Rock next week. Perhaps exhausted by her masterstroke, Miss Record declines to discuss the matter further. Ah well, it's early days. The search for an explanation goes on.

BROWNING through What It's Like Being Famous, the penultimate chapter in Major, Major, I note that, when in Manchester to appear on the Mrs Merton Show, Terry Major-Ball stayed at the "prestigious Albert and Victoria Hotel". Terry, popping in for a nice cup of tea, reports that things have quietened after a frenzied few weeks: last Thursday, for instance, he got to bed at 5am after partying at his friend Peter Stringfellow's club, and then at the Clarion Club with David Lewellyn. That evening, meanwhile, the book's launch party took place at a West End gallery. The Beverley Sisters were there (yes, all three of them), and so was Beryl Buttrick. "She's a very nice lady," says Terry, "and so are the Beverleys." And upon this note of typical Terry chivalry, we say our farewells.

DESPITE the do-nothing disciplinary instincts of Terry Venables and the FA, Paul Gascoigne has not escaped punishment for his airborne vandalism after all. "If he comes in, I'll have to ask him to leave," says Brian, landlord of the Brian and Brian pub, the Coach and Horses. "We don't want his type in here. I'm sorry, but he's barred."



ER — a big event on the small screen

Commentary Peter Preston

WHEN something, for a few weeks or a few months, goes unassailably right, when the buzz of creativity is with it, when you know you're watching the state of a particular art — then collaborate. Which is the reason for writing about ER.

Thus, gradually, television criticism ceased to be much about your average engaged viewer sitting in front of a set through the evening and more, far more, about what the firms supplied for an article which could be delivered the previous afternoon and run without change, through all editions.

Bocho is a restless, vibrant innovator. He's had his flops — he made Doggie Mower MD. But he followed Hill Street Blues with LA Law, then NYPD, then Murder One. His ideas and his stories worked; and he gathers around him directors and writers of total class. There is a School of Bocho which follows him from American channel to channel and which no other team in the world has been able to replicate.

and Steven Spielberg (from the Jurassic Park academy) had simply ripped off and coarsened a winning formula. But such unworthy thoughts. One of the 10 top-selling paperbacks in Britain this week is Behind The Scenes At ER, a solid patrol around the show from genesis to triumph. Criticism wrote the pilot episode 20 years ago, before Bocho, and forgot about it in unproduced frustration. The idea of taking over a hospital emergency room through 20 hours and following all its necessarily transitory dramas was his idea — resuscitated when Spielberg found the buried script. What the second series has done is turn this into something unrelentingly memorable.

You switch off exhausted and then find people traumatised in the office next day

wiped out by ER head-to-head in America. It avoided first-year cancellation last week, but only at the price of axing its hooded-eyed eagle of a star, NYPD, in its third season. It has been running close to snappy on ideas or new characters this spring.

The hawk strikes

David Horowitz argues that Israel has now made a fear-filled mistake

A LITTLE after midnight on Wednesday, Shimon Peres dragged himself away from his television, told relatives and friends he hoped the encouraging early results would show that he had won the Israeli elections, and went off to bed. When he awoke a few hours after, it was to a different Israel.

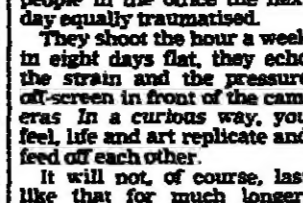
Less than 200 days after a Jewish extremist had gunned down his predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, spurring unprecedented national mourning and unprecedented support for Rabin's peace accords with the Palestinians, Israeli voters have repudiated Rabin's legacy. While Benjamin Netanyahu's advantage may be slender, his majority among Jewish voters is decisive — a clear 10 per cent. That the vote was close at all reflects the high turnout among Israel's Arab voters, desperate to save the country from itself.



While Netanyahu succeeded because he played on Israelis' fears, and because Peres failed convincingly to alleviate them. The Likud leader knew he could never win an election by staying happy, even implying that he intended to halt the land-for-peace accords with the Palestinians. (Most Israelis recognise those accords as a reasonable basis for reconciliation.) So he instead promised the idyllic formula of "peace with security".

Netanyahu's plans for "peace with security" are more likely to produce renewed conflict with the Palestinians, in turn straining ties with moderate Arab states like Jordan. In voting for Netanyahu, Israelis ignored unmistakable signals from the Clinton administration that Peres was the preferred candidate. Reviled not only by radical Arab regimes, but by the moderates, and back on a collision course with the US, Israel may find itself in a state of siege. And that reality is something for Israelis to fear.

Moi? I shall be the Bel of the European ball



Bel Littlejohn

EUROPE? Count me in. I'm all yours, Delors. You see, whatever the xenophobic fat-cats of the Tory right would have us believe — not to mention the middle-class males on Murdoch's Sun — I'm just one of many millions of Brits who considers herself first and foremost a European.

And a good European, too. It doesn't make one jot of difference to me if I'm talking to a German or a French, though obviously it's best if they make the effort to speak English, as sometimes their English accents are — sorry, guys, but I've gotta say it — really not much good at all.

It is an odd hang-up. Crichton has never written anything better than the pilot he knocked out when he was a medical student. He will never guess, he associated with anything which careers as unanything as ER. It may not fit the peculiar pattern of reviewing life. But it's one of those events that, 20 years on, you will look back to, and remember.



Barbara Follett

AND with deeper European integration comes incredible benefits. Barbara Follett told me when I was asked what she thought of the EU you can now get decent paw-paw in her constituency. And, believe me, Barbara has been worried sick about the condition of the paw-paw in her constituency for a good many months now.

And you can now get decent paw-paw in her constituency. And, believe me, Barbara has been worried sick about the condition of the paw-paw in her constituency for a good many months now. Tony then gets on with the business of the day. "Je suis très bien à s'occuper Monsieur Jean Prescott aux décisions de politique pour maintenant, d'accord?" he says. He then asks for a show of hands, and John's hand shoots up in agreement, not having understood a word he said. As I was saying, the EU can truly work miracles.

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Sidney Greenbaum

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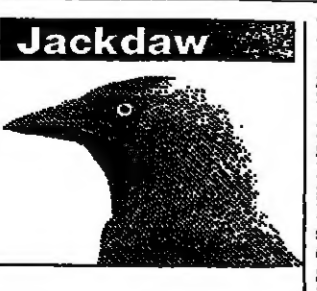
Motoring is my destiny... Sinden as a dandified Toad

Jeremy Sinden

Droll master of the absurd

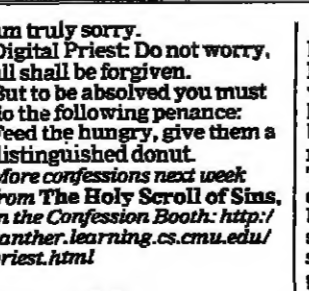
JEREMY Sinden, who has died of cancer aged 65, was an actor of extraordinary comic talent...

an anonymous milk-brother changed to 'The Poor Cow'. He turned out to be dead right.



Jackdaw

Finish your thesis. View your eventual fate if you continue down this path...



Egg skin

AS WELL as being the ideal place for a chick to start life, an egg may be a great place for nurturing skin grafts...

Alan McGregor and his colleagues in the Department of Plastic Surgery at the University of Wales, Swansea...

Lord Margadale

Blood sports and politics

THE DEATH of John Morrison (Lord Margadale), the former chairman of the Tory party's 1922 committee...

family fortunes continued to expand steadily. He was politically quite shrewd; he was one of the first to spot Margaret Thatcher as a future party leader...



Gents' gent... Major Morrison at a Foxhound Show in 1957

point of homage for post-war Tory prime ministers. The last time Margadale spoke in the House of Lords...

Margadale's rare and final speech, which was on the subject of the Nature Conservancy Council...

comedy, he established his own particular style based on easily deflated aristocratic sensibility. As proof of his independence, he and his actress-wife Della Lindsay formed a touring company...

Birthdays

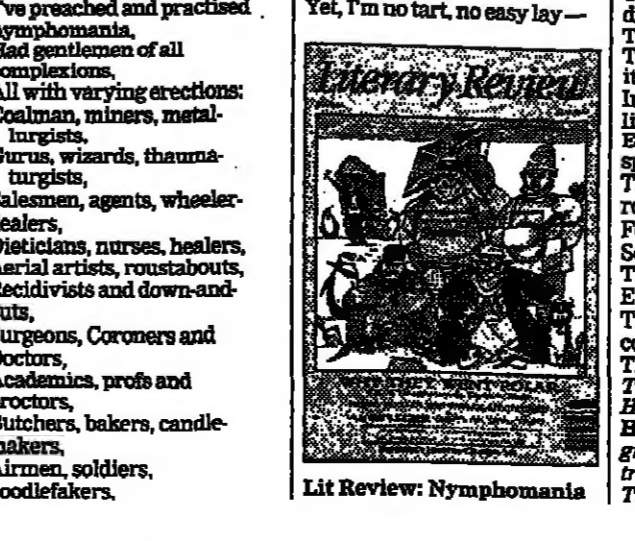
Lynda Bellingham, actress, 48; Sir John Daniel, vice-chancellor, Open University...

Death Notices

SILLIFORTH, Donald, died peacefully in hospital, aged 83, on 27th June 1996...

Indian rail

There is no arrangement for drinking water. The trains are very crowded. This compartment is filled to its capacity...



Nymphs

Serious cut

THE police are taking their knife banning duties seriously, judging from an event over the Easter holidays...

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Finance Guardian

Exports help sterling soar

Boom could last into summer as trade gap closes

London traders take top marks for their currency deals

Notebook Clarke confuses hope with reality

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

THE pound hit fresh highs on the foreign exchanges yesterday after the release of figures showing record-breaking exports to Britain's continental partners fuelling a much needed recovery in the trade balance.

Breaking through the critical 2.35 level against the German mark in morning trade, sterling closed almost a penny up on the day at 2.357, and two cents higher against the US dollar at 1.542.

Analysts said encouraging trade figures had provided evidence of greater underlying strength in the economy and underpinned the pound's continued rise.

Adam Cole, an economist at HSBC James Capel, said: "Sterling has been strong over the past weeks, and the boom could last well into the summer. The good trade figures suggest that the manufacturing sector is healthier than we thought."

Mr Cole said the buoyancy of the dollar was also giving sterling a lift, along with growing expectations that the UK would join a European Monetary Union. "The noises from the Labour Party make the possibility of Britain going in more likely — and if we do, it will certainly be at a higher level than the pound was a few weeks ago."

Brief sales across the Channel — especially to France and the Benelux countries — shaved £500 million off the UK's world trade gap in March, with the shortfall between exports and imports down to \$390 million, against \$1.3 billion the previous month. British firms sold

than we thought." Despite near-recessionary conditions on the Continent, exports to European Union countries jumped to more than \$2 billion for the first time, according to the Office for National Statistics.

The gap between sales to Europe and imports was only \$125 million in March compared to \$415 million the previous month.

Mr Cole said the buoyancy of the dollar was also giving sterling a lift, along with growing expectations that the UK would join a European Monetary Union. "The noises from the Labour Party make the possibility of Britain going in more likely — and if we do, it will certainly be at a higher level than the pound was a few weeks ago."

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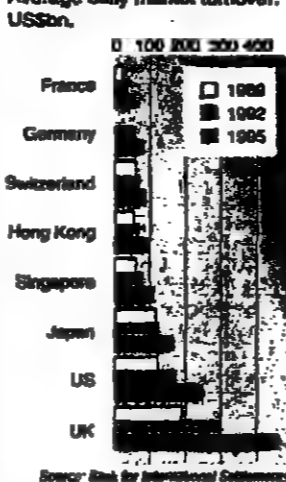
£13.8 billion worth of goods overseas in March, the ONS said — the highest on record. But some commentators warned that if sterling continued to rise, the improvement in trade performance could be short-lived. Half the improvement in the global trade gap was accounted for by precious stones, considered "erratic" items.

Data from the ONS on trade outside Europe in April suggested that the effects of the stronger pound — which makes exports more expensive — were already being felt. The gap between non-EU exports and imports was \$200 million last month, up from \$700 million in March.

The ONS said the long-term trend for the trade gap was "broadly flat", pointing to quarter-on-quarter figures as a robust guide to long-term movements. Between January and March, the value of imports outstripped exports

Foreign exchange

Average daily market turnover, US\$bn.



Source: Bank for International Settlements

Mark Miller

European Business Editor

LONDON'S growing dominance of the world's \$1,200 billion (£795 billion) a day foreign exchange trading was underlined yesterday by the results of the latest survey from the Bank for International Settlements.

Almost a third of all foreign exchange deals are carried out through London, up from 27 per cent at the last survey by the Base-based BIS in 1992.

In fact, foreign currency trading here is so substantial that a larger share of business in both the US dollar (30 per cent) and the German mark (28 per cent) takes place in the United Kingdom than in either the

United States (16 per cent) or Germany (10 per cent). London also has half the trading in the ecu and some 31 per cent of the other European Monetary System currencies.

However, sterling's contribution to the strength of London's position is declining, according to the BIS. The pound was the world's fourth most widely traded currency "but owing to a stagnation of turnover its share declined noticeably from 14 per cent to 10 per cent."

"Since sterling turnover in London itself rose in absolute terms, the change reflects the reduced use of sterling as a trading and reserve currency elsewhere and the ongoing internationalisation of the London market through the growth

of trading in other currency pairs."

The size of the foreign exchange market is causing headaches for central banks, which are increasingly concerned about the risks to the international banking system posed by what they consider to be a failure by banks to "measure and manage exposures."

Earlier this year the BIS called on commercial banks to improve their procedures for monitoring their exposure through the foreign exchange market.

The bank was founded in 1930 to promote co-operation of central banks and to provide facilities for international financial operations. The Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, is on the board.

by 2.5 billion, up from £2.2 billion in the last quarter of 1995. Treasury officials seized on the figures as evidence of a sustained economic recovery, especially in the light of revisions by the ONS to last year's data — which boosted export volumes and downgraded price tags on imports and exports.

A spokesman said: "This is good news on the price front." City economists said the revisions could push up the rate of GDP growth for 1995 to 2.6 per cent from the previous estimate of 2.5 per cent.

● Fears that America's central bank, the Federal Reserve, might be forced to raise interest rates were revived yesterday by figures suggesting the economy is picking up speed.

New home sales were higher than expected in April and there were signs that businesses were poised to top up depleted inventories.



Edited by Alex Brummer

THE Chancellor's claims that Britain is top of Europe's premier league of economies must be taken with a pre-election pinch of salt. While the UK can draw much succour for the praise heaped by the OECD upon the microeconomic reforms of the last 15 years, this is not the last word.

In terms of the immediate outlook the OECD has confirmed what has been evident from the last Budget: the 3 per cent growth forecast was too optimistic; output this year is likely to be a less exciting 2 per cent. This is unlikely to be enough to have any great effect on jobs, but will affect the projections for public finances, already struggling with a shortfall of VAT and corporation tax receipts.

The growth pause does not mean, however, that the UK is heading into recessionary territory. The general assumption is that weak export markets in Europe are behind the slowdown and they should pick up again as Germany recovers, on the basis of interest rate cuts already taken and a weakening of the German mark.

The conventional wisdom shared by the OECD is that the consumer side of the UK economy, perhaps assisted by recent easing of monetary policy — perhaps a further interest rate reduction if momentum does not occur automatically.

Where the OECD and some of the other reports on UK competitiveness this week coincide is on some of the traditional weaknesses of the UK economy. Despite the growth seen in this economic cycle, Britain continues to be let down by lack of investment.

The OECD notes that total investment spending in 1995 was much lower than in the 1980s (although that data were confuted by a speculative housing and property boom). What is more worrying perhaps is the failure of domestic industry to match the enthusiasm of overseas investors which have targeted the UK.

The same factors which caused the OECD to praise the UK economy are also those which allowed Britain to climb up the World Competitiveness league of the Davos-based World Economic Forum. It is when the more subjective indicators, such as skills and training, are added as they were by the International Institute of Management Development in its report on Tuesday, that the UK starts to fall down the economic league. Quite sensibly, this has been the focus of the Gordon Brown-Tony Blair economic strategy.

The irony for the Tories is that a combination of structural reforms in the 1980s and the devaluation of 1992 has given Britain as a whole perhaps the most favourable economic background of low inflation, sound public finances and steady growth for three decades.

These are all highly virtuous developments. But the failure of industry to invest and the reluctance of consumers to spend, in line with previous UK experience, means that the energy which drives the feel-good factor is absolutely absent from the economic picture.

● It has taken a large bottom line hit of £128.8 million for the integration of the two businesses, which will result in a loss of 2,500 jobs by the end of the century. Meanwhile, shareholders can look forward to an ever increasing dividend stream. This is not quite the stakeholder company that Sir Desmond Pitcher describes.

What, however, is most fascinating about the Pitcher pitch is not the grandiose vision of a super-utility, supplying everything from gas to telecoms, but United Utilities' thoughts on upstream supply. It believes that by being a specialist distributor it can, like Tesco and Sainsbury in the petrol field, pick and choose its alliances among electricity-gas producers and form alliances if necessary to provide the best deal to consumers.

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Utilities in turmoil: While one water firm fights to stand alone another seeks to create one-stop shop



Seekers after leaks... Bid target Southern Water received a pat on the back from the industry watchdog Ofwat for its 'leakbuster' teams' success in reducing seepages without huge capital outlay. Just over 13pc of the 110m gallons of water supplied every day is now lost through leakage, compared with 30pc at privatisation six years ago. PHOTOGRAPH: STEWART GOLDSTEIN

South West shores up bid defences

Mark Miller

SOUTH West Water showed that its bid defences were in good order yesterday with better-than-expected profits and dividends, £6.9 million in customer rebates and a three-year pensions holiday.

Two competing bids for South West Water, from Wessex Water and Severn Trent, are being scrutinised by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

South West chairman Keith Court made it clear yesterday that his company had no intention of capitulating if the bids are cleared. "These approaches were unsolicited and remain unwelcome," he said.

The Exeter-based group backed its case by unveiling full-year profits up by 10.5 per cent to £109.1 million, while the final dividend is up by almost 14 per cent to 20.7p a share — making a total of 30.5p for the year.

The group has the highest

water and sewerage charges, partly because it is responsible for a large number of Britain's bathing beaches.

It now reckons that customers should be allowed a share in the benefits of its improved performance and will make a £10-a-household rebate later this summer. For holiday-makers, there is the good news that 12% of the region's 133 bathing beaches are up to European Union standards.

According to its latest actuarial valuation, South West Water's two main pension funds had a £36 million surplus at the end of April which means that the group will not need to make further contributions until 1999. The pensions holiday will be worth \$4 million a year, according to finance director, Ken Hill.

Mr Court was confident about the group's prospects. "Our utility business made substantial, sustainable economics and has moved ahead of the efficiency targets."

On the stock market, South West Water shares were up 6p at 671p.

United seeks powerful allies to survive energy free-for-all

Big player in North-west wants to offer householders more services under one corporate roof. Chris Barrie reports

WATER and electricity group United Utilities wants to team up with power generators and gas companies to strengthen its market position for the start of competition in the supply of energy to households in 1998.

As further proof of utility companies' intentions to offer several services under one corporate roof, chief executive Brian Staples said alliances with generators and gas trading companies would help his group cut costs and manage margins. Tentative discussions had been held with other companies.

Mr Staples was speaking as United Utilities announced a dip in pre-tax profits of 4 per cent to £272.6 million, on turnover of £1.83 billion. However, underlying profits rose by 35 per cent to \$264.2 million

when exceptional costs of £133.8 million, mostly associated with last year's takeover of regional electricity company Norweb, are excluded.

United Utilities included a special dividend to increase its payout to shareholders by 28 per cent to 32.66p a share last year. Chairman Sir Desmond Pitcher promised real dividend growth of more than 11 per cent a year.

In what will be seen as an encouragement to other utilities contemplating mergers, Mr Staples said the supply of gas, water, electricity and telecoms would be concentrated in the hands of between six and 10 large groups once restructuring was complete.

Scottish Power, the electricity generator and distributor, said yesterday that it renounced keen to buy Southern Water despite having

been outbid by regional electricity company Southern Electric.

United Utilities said it was ahead of its timetable for delivering £140 million of cost savings — greater than planned — from the merger by 1999-2000. Over 75 per cent of this year's \$94 million target was already secured.

The utility division will shed 1,160 jobs this year, 30 per cent of which have already gone. The facilities management division is due to lose 300 posts. Overall, some 2,500 jobs will be cut across the group by 2000.

Mr Staples said the company had not been aggressive in its "people downsizing", but shareholders wanted early returns and staff needed an end to uncertainty. Redundancies were being made on a voluntary basis.

Investment increased by \$96 million to £440 million, including £27 million spent to rectify low pressure in supplies and replacing lead piping. The company pledged to spend \$68 million on mea-

sures to ensure supplies during a drought.

It is operating a hospitable ban but was confident of maintaining supplies despite low reservoir levels. Leakage has been cut from 33 per cent to 26 per cent.

Norweb Gas lost \$800,000 on a turnover of £17 million due to competitive market conditions and adverse gas contracts. The company said it had gained valuable experience in the South-west where trials into the competitive domestic market are under way.

United Utilities remains committed to selling Norweb's contracting, retail and generating interests, and its process equipment division, raising more than \$260 million.

Pyramid 'crooks' caught in Net

Mark Tran in New York

ONE of the oldest con tricks, the pyramid selling scheme, has won a new lease of life on the Internet.

The Federal Trade Commission has cracked down on a company which placed an advertisement on the World Wide Web promising an irresistible deal: send in \$50 (£17) a month, sit back and enjoy a monthly return of more than \$6,000, without lifting a finger.

The FTC described the case as the biggest fraud yet uncovered on the global computer network, with the alleged swindlers taking \$6 million. "This brand new, hi-tech scam is as old as Me-

seotiah," said Jodie Bernstein, director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection. "Behind all the techno-jargon and the mathematical mumbo-jumbo, this is just an elaborate, electronic version of a chain letter."

The FTC has frozen the assets amassed by the five executives of Fortuna Alliance, based in Bellingham, Washington, who had moved \$3.5 million into offshore banks in Antigua and the West Indies.

According to the FTC, Fortuna also provided advice and promotional materials for members to set up their own web sites to recruit others to the pyramid scheme.

The FTC moved against Fortuna after police in Bellingham were deluged with complaints.

Supplied by Reuters Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.8575	France 7.99	Italy 2.228	Singapore 2.10
Austria 13.01	Germany 2.375	Japan 2.54	South Africa 2.50
Belgium 46.74	Greece 383.00	Netherlands 2.5500	Spain 150.50
Canada 2.0478	Hong Kong 11.54	New Zealand 2.17	Sweden 10.22
Cyprus 0.7010	India 53.52	Norway 2.70	Switzerland 13.25
Denmark 5.84	Ireland 0.6440	Portugal 225.75	Turkey 114.226
Finland 7.17	Israel 4.99	Saudi Arabia 5.70	USA 1.4890

EU attacks Visa plan to curb rivals

Julie Wolf in Brussels

Visa International was warned yesterday that Brussels will oppose moves to prevent member banks from offering rival credit and charge cards, such as American Express.

"We really think that there is a problem with this... and we cannot accept it," Karel Van Miert, the European Union's competition commissioner, said of proposals which are expected to be considered by Visa's board of directors in Montreal next week.

The commissioner was sending Visa the world's biggest credit card issuer, a clear signal that it risks running into trouble with Europe's anti-trust authorities if it goes ahead with the plans. "Since the board meeting is taking place, I think we need to clarify the situation. One cannot just live with it," Mr Van Miert said.

American Express, Dean Witter Discover & Co and Diners Club have all filed complaints with the commission, arguing that the proposed changes in Visa's rules violate EU competition regulations. In March, Visa's board asked its management to draw up rule changes for consideration at next week's board meeting.

The Visa move follows a change of strategy at American Express to offer its cards through banks instead of direct to consumers. American Express executives say customers in Europe favour a relationship with a bank when choosing a card.

American Express is already marketing its cards with banks in Portugal, Greece, Israel and South Korea. But the possibility that Visa may change its rules has made it harder for the company to make further agreements.

Tokyo taxes 'hit whisky'

Exports of Scotch whisky and other European spirits are expected to win a boost from an imminent ruling by the World Trade Organisation that Japan's tax system unfairly penalises foreign imports, writes Julie Wolf.

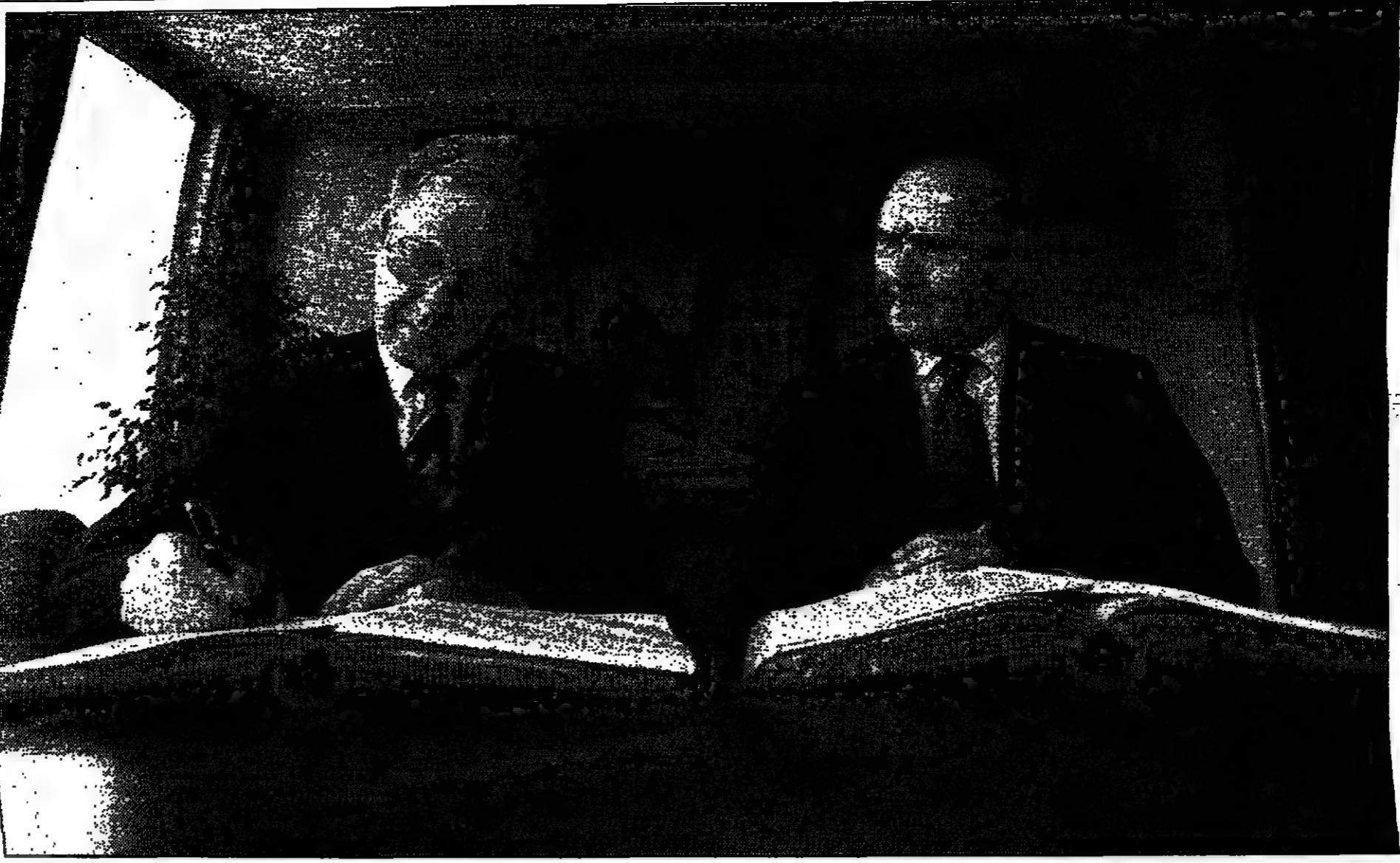
A disputes panel set up by the Geneva-based WTO has upheld a complaint filed by the European Union against Japan, European Commission sources said yesterday.

Hugh Morrison, director-general of the Scotch Whisky Association, welcomed reports of the decision. "We hope that Japan will proceed rapidly to implement the findings," he said.

The EU argues that Japanese taxes on imported whisky, vodka, gin, brandy and rum are up to seven times more than taxes on the Japanese rice-based spirit, shochu. The panel, whose draft report is not due to be published until early July, found that European spirits competed directly with shochu and should receive similar tax treatment, the EU sources said.

Although the EU won a case against Japan's alcohol taxes in 1987, the changes introduced by Tokyo did not go far enough to eliminate discrimination, according to Brussels.

Under the WTO's rules, Japan has the right to appeal against the panel's findings. If it loses the appeal, it must implement the report or face sanctions.



It's a deal... Liffe chairman Jack Wigglesworth (left) and Stock Exchange chairman John Kemp-Welch sign the agreement to lease the Exchange trading floor. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

All change at the Exchange, as members back switch to automatic order-driven trading system

Patrick Donovan City Editor

PLANS to restructure the London share market took another step forward yesterday when the Stock Exchange announced that proposals to introduce "order-driven" trading had won the support of member brokers and institutions.

The move will involve a new system of trading based on the automatic matching of

buy and sell orders for the top 100 FTSE shares. No firm date has been set for it to start.

But trading with the existing "quote-driven" system, whereby market makers post bid and offer quotes on their trading screen, will continue for other stocks.

Order-driven trading may be extended at a later date said the Exchange director, Giles Varley. There will be a further provision for "block trading" of large deals by telephone. The Exchange said

that this was because "larger trades, as a result of their risk profile, cannot easily be accommodated via an order book".

It added: "Feedback made it clear that the majority of the market will be able to implement the new trading services approximately nine months after formal confirmation of the final proposals."

Consultation over technical details will continue with market participants, with a deadline for responses set for July 13. Further technical-

ties must be agreed with the market regulator, the Securities and Investments Board.

In a separate announcement, the SIB yesterday published a discussion document on the market changes, saying that relief on stamp duty should be required for market participants providing liquidity in share dealing. Under the current system, market-makers are exempted from stamp duty — 0.5 per cent on the value of a share deal — to compensate them for the risk

to their own capital.

The market review follows the acrimonious sacking of the former chief executive, Michael Lawrence. Mr Lawrence lost the support of many in the City because he attempted to push through reforms without consultation. Meanwhile, the Exchange yesterday confirmed that it had finally signed a deal to lease the unused trading floor to the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange, Liffe.

Troubled fashion retailer talks takeover turkey with Texans

Faustine Springett

Facia, the group of speciality fashion shops run by Stephen Hinchliffe, confirmed yesterday that it was negotiating a reverse takeover deal with Texas American Group.

"The outcome of the talks depends in part on the outcome of Facia's investigation of Texas American. Facia is continuing to talk to other parties," a spokesman said.

William Grosvenor, chief executive of Texas American, said he had been talking to Mr Hinchliffe for two months and expected to be able to value Facia in a month.

Texas American was created in 1967 but had been a so-called shell company until a couple of years ago when it

was activated as a trading company. It has a listing on the US Nasdaq exchange although it is run from Mr Grosvenor's London offices.

Mr Grosvenor, a former FR executive, said the company was "relatively debt-free with a fairly solid asset base of around \$160 million (£104 million) — including hotels in Spain and Portugal, time-share apartments and a Huntington golf course.

Facia is the second largest privately-owned retailing group in the UK. The 1,000 store chain includes Saxe, Freeman Hardy Willis, Sock Shop, Trueform, Coates, Salsbury and Red or Dead.

The company is beset by difficulties. Recently Mr Hinchliffe is believed to have tried to raise \$40 million to upgrade shops.

Facia is also facing possible prosecution by Companies

House unless it files accounts for last year by July 1 and Mr Hinchliffe faces possible disqualification as a company director by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Grosvenor said he was aware of the publicity surrounding Mr Hinchliffe. "I wouldn't be human if I said I wasn't concerned but Mr Hinchliffe is perhaps being rather harshly thought of," he said.

News in brief

Stores chief placates angry shareholders

HOUSE of Fraser chairman Brian McGowan told disgruntled shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting that sales in the first 17 weeks of the year were 5 per cent ahead of last year, on a comparable basis. But he warned that profit margins would not improve during the current six months. Shareholders, dissatisfied with last year's halving of profits, complained that the stores were dull and compared badly with rivals.

One investor complained the board on selling the D H Evans stores in London's Wood Green — because the shop was now well run. Another suggested the poor performance in womenswear could be due to an all-male board. The agm was told that new chief executive, John Coleman, was carrying out a full review of operations and policies. — Roger Couze

Tomkins' US deal held up

TOMKINS, which makes a broad range of products from bread to handguns, warned that its effort to gain US regulatory approval for its \$773 million purchase of Gates Rubber, the world's biggest maker of automotive belts and hoses, is moving slower than expected.

The City believes Tomkins needs to clinch the Gates purchase to keep its profits growing but its shares rose 6p to 253p when it said profits for 1996 would be up by at least 7 per cent. Tomkins said it was experiencing patchy growth in some markets, but planned to lift the dividend by 15 per cent as a sign of confidence. — Tony May

Redland profits warning

THE Redland building materials group warned yesterday that its profits for the first six months of the year would be "well down" on last year. Trading conditions had improved, but it would not recover the lost ground in the second half of the year, Rudolph Agnew, the new chairman, told the annual general meeting.

Bad winter weather in Europe had contributed to a "substantial" fall in results for the first quarter, he said. While better weather had helped sales return to expected levels since the end of March, the underlying level was still below those of last year in most European operating companies. — Tony May

French carrier seeks links

AIR France, the French state-owned carrier, said it was in talks with at least four leading US airlines about a possible transatlantic alliance and hoped to have an agreement by the end of the year. "We confirm that we are in discussions with a number of US companies," said a spokeswoman.

Discussions are most advanced with American Airlines, United Airlines, Delta Air Lines and Continental Airlines. The aim would probably be to extend Air France's network in the United States and engage in other forms of co-operation. Air France, which hopes to be privatised in late 1997 or early 1998, is also exploring co-operation with Asian carriers and signed last year an agreement with Japan Airlines. — Reuters

LIG plans more disposals

CONDOM and rubber glove maker London International Group, whose best known brand is Durex, yesterday unveiled a 72.4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £26.2 million for the year to the end of March. Chief executive Nick Hodges said restructuring would continue, probably in the shape of further disposals.

LIG said operating profit was hit by a £7.8 million increase in marketing. The company recently bought US condom maker Alcon for £46 million and expects to make several smaller acquisitions this year. — Pauline Springett

GM chooses Thai plant

GENERAL MOTORS said that Thailand had been chosen over the Philippines as the site of a \$750 million (£500 million) manufacturing plant that will be the US car maker's first in South-east Asia. It will be built by German subsidiary, Opel, drawing on production systems developed in Eisenach, eastern Germany. Thailand and the Philippines had both lobbied hard for the plant, which is expected to employ 1,500 workers. — Associated Press

ISS cleans up problems

ISS, the Danish group best known for its contract cleaning operations, is to take a \$100 million charge against its US business to cover a combination of alleged accounting irregularities, overstated profits and insurance liabilities. The group said yesterday financial officer for the American subsidiary as the previous incumbent "has left the company". — Mark Milner

When big spells bad news

OUTLOOK/Roger Cowe warns of difficulties ahead for Facia

BUILDING a big business looks easy. Lord Hanson did it, just by a few takeovers which shot his company from obscurity to the top of the pile between the mid-1970s and mid-1980s. Others have done it by hitting on a good idea and exploiting it to the full. The supermarket chains are an object lesson of rapid growth in a short time.

It was as easy as it looks, however, Lord Hanson and his wealthy Facia would not be desperate for funds, and there would be more successes.

But for every Lord Hanson there are plenty who never made it. Think of Coleridge, the wallpaper company which flared through the 1980s like a rocket but collapsed within a few years of gaining a stock market quote.

The late 1980s produced many such examples. Some are now recovering strongly, such as Burton and Next. Others are not, for example Brent Walker — which still struggles under the burden of £1.8 billion of debts and last week announced losses of more than £400 million — and Sock Shop, which ironically was one of the first purchases

of Facia's founder, Stephen Hinchliffe.

Then there are the likes of BET, which was buying a company a week in the mid-1980s. It paid the price earlier this year when Rentokil forestalled its recovery. Rentokil is one of the few groups which have made a success of rapid and repeated acquisitions.

All these examples illustrate why it isn't easy to build a big business quickly. Growth is difficult to manage and difficult to finance.

Next, for example, was opening stores and new product lines at such a rate in the late 1980s that the company did not know what was profitable and what was not. Sock Shop similarly ran out of control.

In the case of Brent Walker, debt was the killer. Debts taken on to buy bids and the William Hill betting chain were just too great.

That illustrates another factor common to failure — over-optimism. Brent Walker, like Burton and other casualties, assumed the good times would continue to roll.

A different form of optimism, which appears to have afflicted Mr Hinchliffe, is the belief that poor businesses,

such as the shoe shops he acquired from Sears and the Salsbury accessories chain, can be turned round.

That is sometimes true. Large groups sometimes fail to spot the potential of their small businesses, or do not allow them to succeed because of priorities elsewhere.

The conglomerates Tomkins and Williams Holdings began their rise by acquiring companies which owners were glad to let go for a song because they looked hopeless. But more often, a business regarded as hopeless by its owner is just that.

Facia's difficulties have been exacerbated by the fact that it is a private company, which makes it more difficult to raise money. Finance is critical to a fast-growing company. Even if it is successful it needs a constant supply of cash to fund expansion. In addition to the normal needs for investment in the business.

A stock market quotation is not a panacea, as all the quoted company failures illustrate. A private company provides a means of building on a successful base. First, the shares can finance acquisitions, which avoids adding to debts. Second, new shares can be issued to raise extra cash.

But there is one all-important prerequisite — the business must be successful to begin with.

F&C plans £200m sale

Patrick Donovan City Editor

INVESTMENT group Foreign & Colonial yesterday announced it is considering selling a 50 per cent stake in its fund management subsidiary to Hypo Bank of Germany in a deal worth an estimated £200 million.

F&C is thought to be tempted to sell the Foreign & Colonial Management (FCM) subsidiary because recent expansion has made fund management far less important to the overall business.

Other parts of the business, particularly within its Ger-

man operations, are now F&C's main source of income. Analysts yesterday described the estimated price as a "tempting deal".

Sale negotiations are understood to have been delayed because of F&C's recent £53 million acquisition of the electricity industry's pension business.

Hypo Bank, which has had a 50 per cent holding in FCM for the past seven years, is anxious to build up its presence in City fund management. Under the terms of the deal, Hypo has first refusal on the F&C fund management stake.

Lazard Brothers, which is

handling the deal for F&C, said in a statement: "Discussions are at a very preliminary stage and no further announcement is unlikely to be made for some time".

The proposed deal is the latest in a wave which has been reshaping the City fund management industry. A number of well-publicised deals are currently in the final stages of negotiation.

Fund managers are scrambling to build up ever bigger businesses because of a widespread fear that only the biggest portfolios will have enough critical mass to compete in the growing global markets.

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Racing

Carson ban lifted by Irish stewards

Ron Cox

WILLIE Carson is free to ride Bint Salsabil in next Friday's Vodafone Oaks after yesterday succeeding with his appeal to the Irish Turf Club against the five-day ban he received for wearing an unapproved helmet at the Curragh last week. The decision overturned the suspension given by the Irish stewards after the Air-Force/Coachman Irish 1000 class, won by Carson on Mitiya.



Carson... fair hearing

cality relating to a notice regarding skull caps inserted in the Irish Racing Calendar. In their official announcement of the verdict, the stewards said they were satisfied that Carson had ridden in a skull cap with a lesser specification than that currently required under the rules. But they noted that "the technical specifications for all approved skull caps were inaccurately defined in my notice to all trainers and riders regarding skull caps in the Irish Racing Calendar of March 7 1996."

Dr Walter Halley, the Turf Club medical officer who reported Carson for wearing the unapproved helmet, left the hearing yesterday gruff-faced and without any comment. Carson was represented by the Naas-based solicitor Andrew Connon, and had support from Angus Gold, racing manager Mitiya's owner Hamdan Al Maktoum.

As Carson got the go-ahead for the Oaks, a significant threat to his mount Bint Salsabil receded yesterday when it was announced that Lina Wells, the crack French filly, is virtually certain to contest the Prix de Diane at Chantilly on Sunday week rather than travel to Epsom. Roland de Longeville, racing manager to Jean-Luc Gardere, the filly's part-owner, said: "We have pondered all the options and have concluded that it is probably best to remain in France."



Derby date... High Baroque takes on the French in Sunday's classic

High Baroque to run in French Derby

HIGH BAROQUE and Don Michelotto have been supplemented for the French Derby at Chantilly on Sunday at cost of £32,528 each. Peter Chapple-Hyam, who trains the unbeaten High Baroque, also has Astor Place and Polaris Flight in the race and a maximum field of 15 will contest the mile-and-a-half race, which has seen the en-

forced defection of one of the leading fancies, Loup Solitaire, due to back problems. Olivier Peslier, who was due to ride Loup Solitaire, is now expected to ride Redevore. Helios, who won the Prix Lupin, is expected to start a warm favourite. The 15 acceptors are: Dark Nile, Redevore, Water Pot, Ragmar, Artaxat,

Le Destin, Don Michelotto, Polaris Flight, Astor Place, Helios, Grape Tree Road, High Baroque, Olivier, Hoist To Heaven and L'Africain Bleu. Chapple-Hyam has also supplemented his unbeaten Regal Archive for the Group One Prix Jean Prat, over nine furlongs, on the same card at a cost of £5,270.

Pipe reaches 2,000 winners

MARTIN PIPE saddled his 2,000th jumping winner when Robert's Toy landed the Eaton Bishop Novice Chase at Hereford last night, writes Ken Oliver. The Somerset trainer, who has his first winner in 1977, said: "I'm very relieved, it's been hard during the past few weeks. We

will certainly celebrate tonight." David Bridgwater gave the 7-4 favourite a tremendous ride. It looked as though Lowawatha would win when taking up the running before two fences out but Robert's Toy responded well to win by seven lengths.

Catterick

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 2.00 Hob Scorpion, 2.50 Whistling, 3.00 MATEYAMA (app).

Colleg Club - 4 Decades Milehand. Figures in brackets after horse's name show date when last ridden.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 2.20 STAPLETON MAIDEN AUCTION RACES STAKES 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 2.50 CROPPY BELLINI STAKES 5YO IN £2,000.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 3.20 WINDMILL SPUR HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,000.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 3.50 NEW BELL CLAMBER STAKES IN £2,750.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 4.20 GIBSON HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 4.50 GIBSON HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 4.50 GIBSON HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 4.50 GIBSON HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Bath tonight

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 6.35 PINE, 6.50 WOODBURN, 7.00 PINEBARK.

Down Lane - 4 Decades Milehand. Figures in brackets after horse's name show date when last ridden.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 6.35 GUYLTONIAN RACING RELATED MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES 2YO IN £2,400.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 7.05 SEP HANDICAP MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES 2YO IN £1,600.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 7.35 FRIDAY HANDICAP MAIDEN 2YO IN £1,600.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 8.05 HAYWARDS CLAMBER STAKES 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 8.35 MARSHALL MAIDEN STAKES 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 9.05 END OF THE DAY HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 9.35 GIBSON HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 9.35 GIBSON HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Stratford (N.H.) tonight

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 6.30 STAY HAPPY, 6.50 HAPPY WEDNESDAY, 7.20 KING ARTHUR.

Colleg Club - 4 Decades Milehand. Figures in brackets after horse's name show date when last ridden.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 6.30 JAMES PACT GROUP WEST BROTHERS SELLING HANDICAP 3YO IN £1,000.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 6.50 A SOUND MACHINERY WINDMILL HANDICAP 5YO IN £1,000.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 7.20 TARMAC CONSTRUCTION HANDICAP 5YO IN £1,000.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 7.50 HOWE AND HOWE CHAMPION HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 8.20 JOHN DAVIES HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 8.50 OPTIMA 5YO HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 9.20 JOHN DAVIES HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 9.50 JOHN DAVIES HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Ayr with form guide

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 2.00 FLYING OF PAVAN, 2.30 MAREE, 2.50 ANNEADY.

Colleg Club - 4 Decades Milehand. Figures in brackets after horse's name show date when last ridden.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 2.00 GIBSON HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 2.30 GIBSON HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 2.50 GIBSON HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 3.00 GIBSON HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 3.30 GIBSON HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 3.50 GIBSON HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 4.00 GIBSON HANDICAP 5YO IN £2,500.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 4.30 ST. VINCENTI 5YO IN £2,500.

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RACELINE advertisement with phone number 0930 1684 and list of racing results.

Results section with columns for race number, horse name, and time.

Results section with columns for race number, horse name, and time.

Results section with columns for race number, horse name, and time.

FRENCH OPEN: RUSEDSKI WILTS IN THE HEAT WHILE RIOS WARMS TO HIS TASK

Greg in losing muddle

Stephen Barley in Paris

GREG RUSEDSKI, British-born Canadian, adopted a Can...

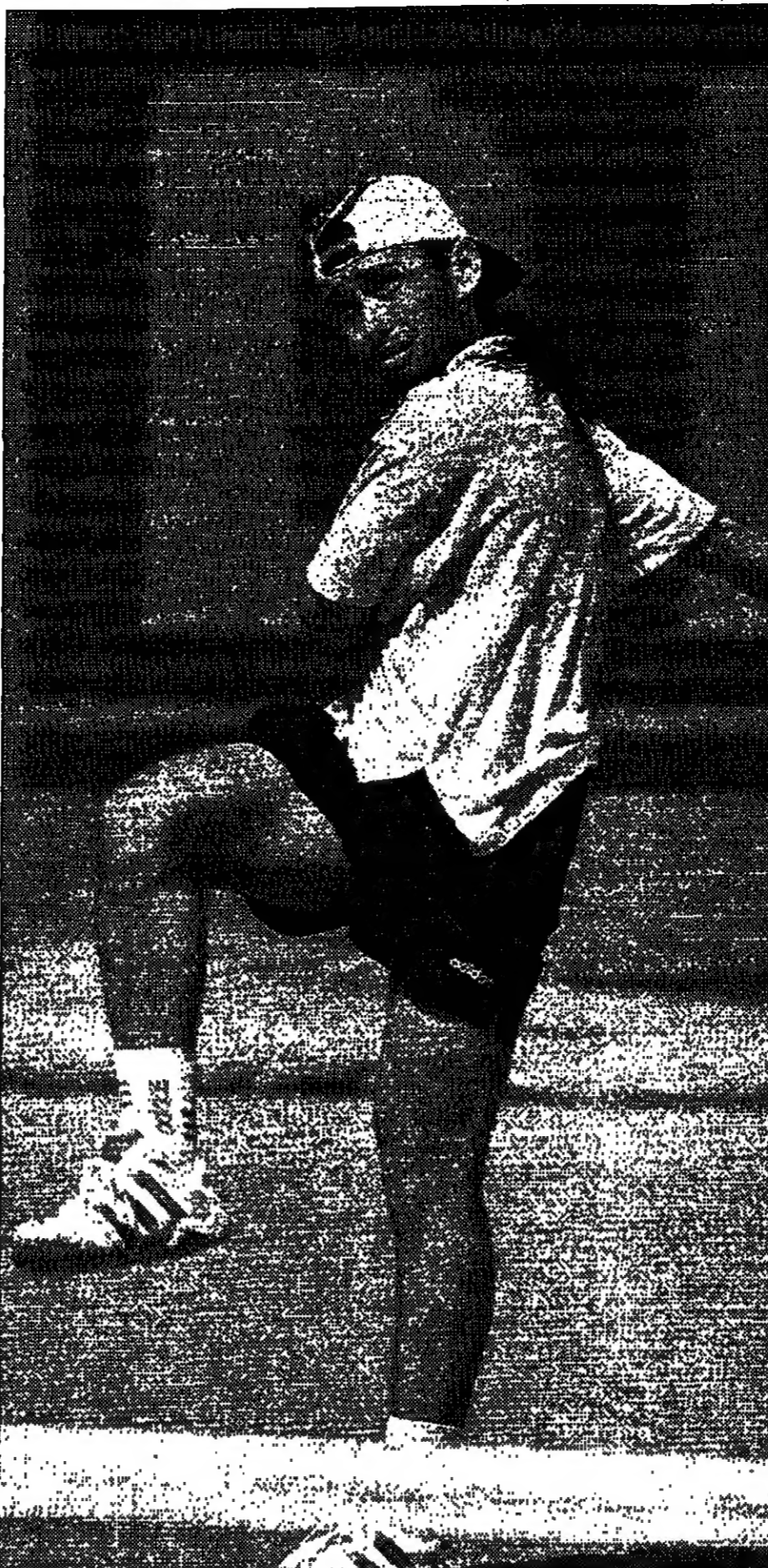
The good, the bad and the not so ugly kid from Chile

Richard Williams at Roland Garros on the 20-year-old Marcelo Rios, probably the next bad-boy superstar of world tennis

WHEN Marcelo Rios heard John McEnroe say that he looked like a girl, he stopped shaving...

Like McEnroe his temper is on a hair-trigger. When the 1993 world junior champion made the tour, he brought along a reputation as a world-class racket abuser

Scuffing his sneakers angrily in the red dust and darting that green-yellow glare across the net...



Knee-high... Rios easing to his straight-sets win over Stoltenberg yesterday

Hamburg. At the Italian Open he made the quarter-finals, which he followed by winning the clay-court tournament at St Pölten...

He doesn't talk to many other guys. He's different. He likes to be on the court, he likes to practise, and he likes to hang out at the club, watching the matches...

best when it's a tight match. His only big problem is inconsistency over the course of a match. He's got most of the strokes, and his game is pretty solid, but he does lose concentration...

Soccer

League gains Nationwide support

Russell Thomas

THE Football League yesterday put itself under £25.25 million National...

tract with Endeligh Insurance, which expired with the play-off this week...

FA given seven-day deadline

THE FA has been given seven days to avoid being sued by the National Sporting Club...

of illegally selling 1,300 tickets for Euro 96, but charges were dropped 11 days later...

Bitter-sweet in the Orange Bowl

Patrick Glenn sees hope for the Scots despite a 1-0 defeat

FAUSTINO ASPRILLA's remarkable goal for Colombia seven minutes from the end inflicted an undesired defeat on Craig Brown's Scotland squad...

player who could be called world-class without a blush. Just revealed that, three days before the match, he thought he had no chance of playing...

Advertisement for Philosophy Football featuring a t-shirt with 'WEAR YOUR COLOURS' and 'EUROPE UNITED 96'.

Results

Soccer

TOULON INTERNATIONAL

U-21 TOURNAMENT

Group B: Portugal (1) 2-0, Spain (1) 2-0, Netherlands (1) 1-0, Scotland (1) 1-0...

Golf

PGA TOUR: Tiger Woods (USA) 65, Greg Norman (AUS) 68, Ernie Els (RSA) 71...

Tennis

WIMBLEDON

First Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 vs Stefan Edberg (SWE); Pete Sampras (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 vs Andre Agassi (USA)...

UK NATIONAL LEAGUE

Warwickshire (Warwick) 1-0, North West (1) 2-0, North West (2) 1-0, North West (3) 1-0, North West (4) 1-0...

Squash

WORLD CUP MIXED TEAM COMPETITION: England (ENG) 3-0, Australia (AUS) 2-1, Canada (CAN) 1-2...

Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Chicago (CH) 5-2, Atlanta (ATL) 4-3, Philadelphia (PH) 3-1, Los Angeles (LA) 2-1...

Cycling

GIRO D'ITALIA: Stage 18 (Lugano to Locarno, 169km) 1. F. Schuster (ITA) 4:05.28, 2. M. G. M. (ITA) 4:06.12...

Equestrianism

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS: Hilda (GER) 1-0, Hilda (GER) 1-0, Hilda (GER) 1-0...

Chess

DOS HERMANAS TOURNAMENT: I. Veloso (BRA) 3-0, I. Veloso (BRA) 3-0, I. Veloso (BRA) 3-0...

Fixtures

7.30 unless stated. RUGBY LEAGUE: STOMES SUPER LEAGUE: Castleford v Warrington...

Fixtures

STELLA ARTOIS GRASSCOURT CHAMPIONSHIPS: QUEENS CLUB 10th-15th June. BOOK TICKETS NOW 0171 413 1414

Handwritten notes on the right margin: 'This sn...', 'I've take...', 'on defer'

Handwritten note: 'July 20 1996'

Rugby Union

Tigers snap up Dwyer

LEICESTER, runners-up in league and cup this year, yesterday confirmed that Bob Dwyer, the man who coached Australia to their World Cup...

with Neil Back's six-month ban for pushing the referee in the cup final. Many of Russ's tasks at Leicester had been taken over by Peter Wheeler...

Golf

Langer takes a grip on defence

BERNHARD LANGER may temporarily have lost his consistency but his resilience remains glorious and unimpaired. Five days after surrendering his Volvo PGA title...

or the shaft stiffer," he said. "But once I had removed it I got a much better roll on the ball and I had my best putting round for a long time."

Johnson puts her way back to prominence

TRISH JOHNSON would rather have spent the past three years watching her beloved Arsenal than playing golf, but she rediscovered the form of better days with an opening round of 71 yesterday in the US Women's Open Championship at Pine Needles.

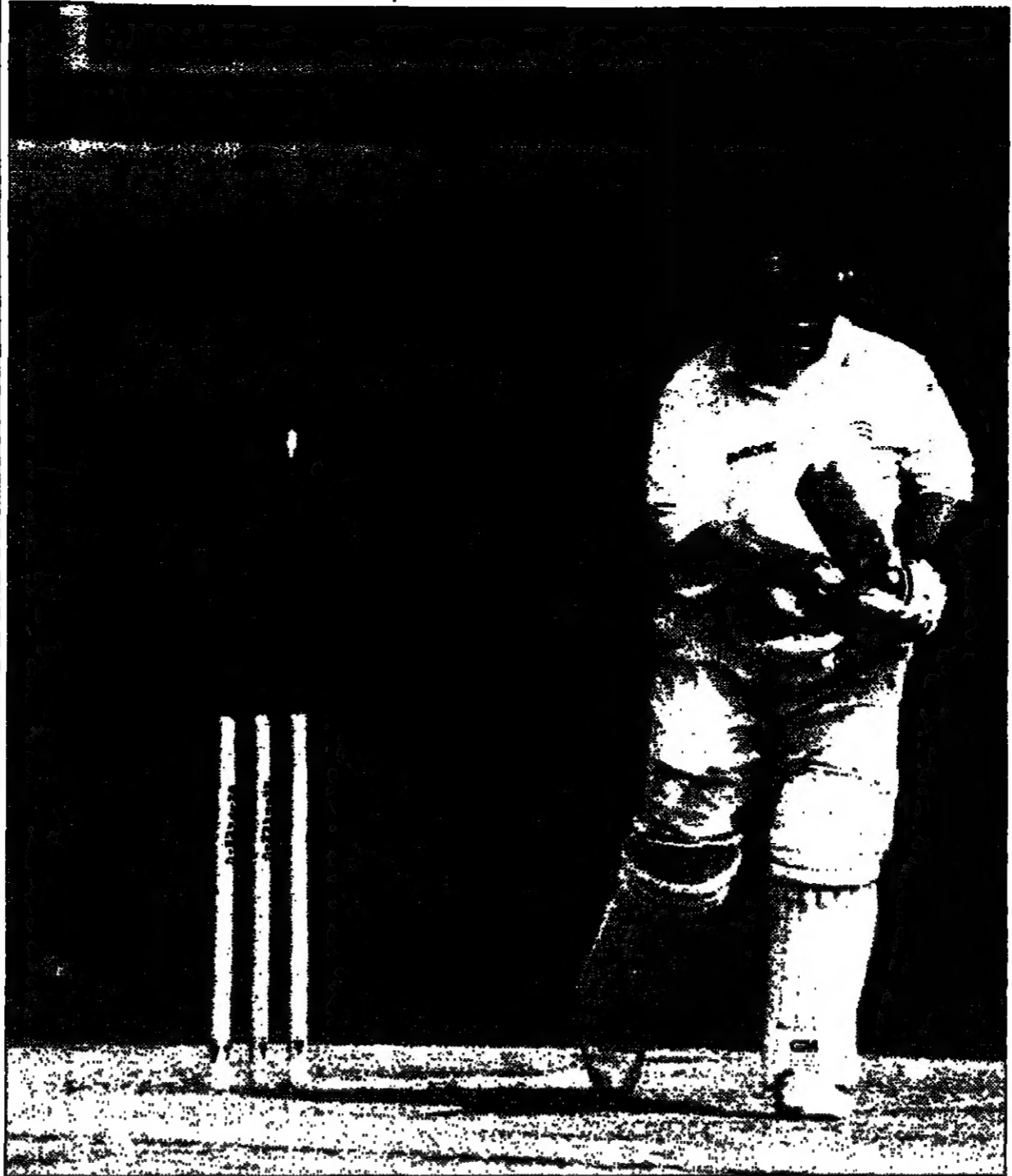
three years ago with victories in Las Vegas and Atlanta. She also had 12 top-10 finishes in 15 events. But she has suffered a series of disappointments since finishing 10th on the US money list with \$331,000...

Cricket

News and Scores

Table with columns for Counties update, Complete county scores, and other cricket statistics.

0891 22 88 30
0891 22 88 30
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Falling off the edge... Getting plays on to a ball from Yorkshire's seamer Silverwood at Lord's. PHOTOGRAPH: DAN SMITH

Kent v Sussex

Summer brings no relief for Sussex as Kent find young fire

PAUL WEAVER at Tunbridge Wells. SUMMER finally reminded itself here yesterday, throwing off its drab incognito and stepping out in vivid colours, a little coquettishly, into the English cricket calendar.

Middlesex v Yorkshire

Ramprakash rises to challenge in style

DAVID FOOT at Lord's. MARK Ramprakash's proximity to Test status can at times like this seem tantalising. Here he put the early-season frustrations - a rib-muscle injury and a sequence of low scores - behind him to restate a serious claim to be an England batsman.

boundaries were without exception assertive and technically correct. It was his 30th century, four of them against Yorkshire - including a career-best double at Leeds last summer.

This proved a toss to win on an easy wicket that offered no more than a trace of early menace to help the bowlers. By then Paul Weekes had been taken at the wicket, as he pushed forward, and Jason Pooley had left his bat in a vertical position, choosing quite the wrong delivery from Darren Gough to ignore.

Scoreboard

Table with columns for British Assurance County Championship, Kent v Sussex, Middlesex v Yorkshire, and other match results.

Northants v Warwickshire

Table with columns for Northants v Warwickshire, Worcestershire v Hampshire, and other match results.

Worcestershire v Hampshire

Table with columns for Worcestershire v Hampshire, Essex v Gloucestershire, and other match results.

Cricket

Northamptonshire v Warwickshire

Tempers boil as champions feel the heat

MIKE SCHREY at Northampton. FOR some seasons now Warwickshire and Northamptonshire have welcomed each other with the sort of bonhomie with which Saxons greeted Viking invaders. Friendly it ain't.

to leave them at an uneasy 34 for two. If it was tough for the players, from it was tougher for the umpires, particularly Tony Clarkson, in his first year on the list, who must have wondered whether he should have been a librarian instead. His lunch had hardly had time to settle when he was warned Pollock - the pages of his Boys' Book of Bowling apparently stuck on B for Bouncer - for unleashing a barrage of short stuff at Mal Loye.

Ye olde brewery spring. There's probably one somewhere around the Fuggles Brewery. But nobody's found it yet. Fuggles A Brand NEW Gold Fashioned Ale.

Carson the big winner, page 13

The new brat on the block, page 14

£5½ million to ease soccer hangover, page 14

Leicester get their man, page 15

SportsGuardian

Briton loses way on clay

Stephen Bierley in Paris

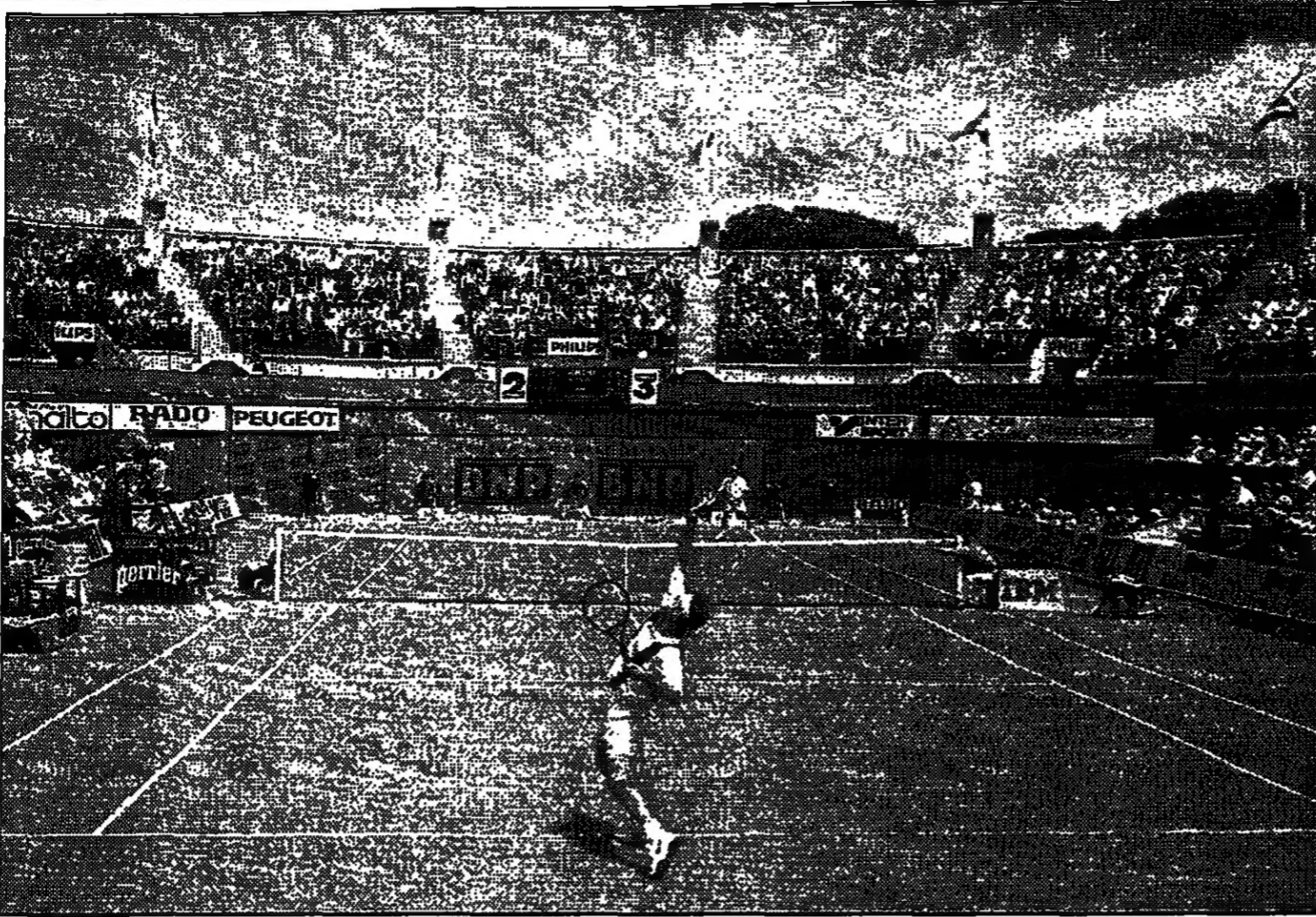
BRITAIN's remaining hope evaporated in the heat of the French Open yesterday when Greg Rusedski went down in straight sets to Germany's Michael Stich.

"I wasn't aggressive enough," the adopted Canadian admitted after the 6-3, 7-5, 6-3, second-round defeat ended his interest in clay.

For a player so dependent on his serve, the left-hander made a dire start with a double fault on the first point and lost the opening game. Rusedski found the surface unsuited to his serve and volley approach, saying: "I am really looking forward to the grass-court season."

The defending champions eased through with few problems. Thomas Muster crushed the world No. 171, Gerard Solves of France, 6-1, 6-3, 6-0, and Steffi Graf beat Australia's Nicole Pietrangeli 6-2, 6-2.

Report, page 14



Worst foot forward... Greg Rusedski dropped his opening serve and the match to Michael Stich in the French Open yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

The national marriages made in hell



Frank Keating

TOMORROW morning Glenn Hoddle will wake up, say his prayers, pour his tea, and officially begin his four-year contract as England's soccer manager. He is keeping a low profile till Terry Venables scarpers at the end of Euro 96 to spend more time with his learned friends.

Hoddle this week returned from a honeymoon break with Dave Sexton's England Under-21 squad in Toulon. The two coaches had supper together, looking across the blissful peaks high above the old town. I dare say they took bets on how long the Hoddle honeymoon would last.

Thoughts of similar wagers may be going through the mind of the new England cricket coach, David Lloyd. His first days have seemed serenely happy—and not a pot-shot has been aimed yet as his boss Raymond Illingworth continues to wade around, de-lant and pouting, the sitting ducks' pond. The ICC disciplinary committee has summoned Illingworth to attend on June 12 to answer charges over his misbegotten memoir, and if Lord's is genuinely serious about it surely Illingworth, who is nearly as proud as he's stubborn, will forgo the humiliation of attendance and waddle off into the sunset.

For Hoddle the omens are not good. Nor, one has to say, for Lloyd. Hoddle's four-year contract is longer than the period Venables served before he did the decent thing. It is far longer than Illingworth's stewardship (even if he hangs on to the end of summer). It is more by far than the Great Britain Olympic men's hockey manager could stomach; he resigned this week "for business reasons", 53 days before Atlanta.

What is happening in every one of our grandest team sports? One cannot, surely, blame the chaos all on the tabloids and the patronising smarm of David Mellor and his "first-time caller, Dave" nincompoops on Radio Five's Six-O-Six.

Hoddle's four years represent twice as many as Jack Rowell has so far served. Yet England's rugby union manager and great big enigmatically smiling gummy-bear is

also, some say, under pressure. What, after only two years which have included one Grand Slam, one Championship and a trip to the World Cup semis? If Hoddle has managed the equivalent by 1998, will "they" be gunning for him? Probably.

As if Twickenham's club-country rugby future hadn't been clouded in convulsed muddle and mischief enough these past six months, there was a splash-certainty in one newspaper this week that had Rowell being ordered with "strict instructions" from an RFU committee next season "to axe" forthwith Dean Richards, Rory Underwood, Jeremy Guscott and, it goes without saying, Will Carling.

I don't believe it. If a committee were autocratically organising Rowell's selection process months before he and his fellow selectors choose their team to play Argentina in late autumn, he would have resigned this week. He is as proud in himself and his record as an Illingworth is cussedly Northern.

At least Hoddle's job—with grateful thanks to Alf Ramsey—has no chance of being committee-led. But he should ruminate on how his own suits and blazers can gang up, just as full of malicious intent as the Fleet Street warriors with the pencil stub on their ear.

Hoddle must enjoy this orange blossom of honeymoon. Snuggly warm beds won't last long. He is not an outgoing man, but he's a strong one all right. He is deep and stubborn and he's done it all, and more skilfully than any player he will ever select.

LOYD is different. He has done it all in other ways. A county-club cricketer for years, England opener on and off but an Ashes tour, three summers as an unmissable radio broadcaster, and another three as an umpire. You love cricket with a passion if you pull on the white coat for three years.

The job of England coach demands some after-dinner speaking. Terry was quite sharp. Jack is good. Glenn will be earnestly solemn and his own man, and why not? Lloyd is also himself. Last month, boring do, he at last got to his feet around midnight.

"Thanks, Mr Chairman, we have dined on a beautiful Thermal Lobster. What more can I say?"

Beginning—and end—of speech. Everyone went home happy.

It will be a nation-humiliating tragedy if the snarling dogs are let loose on Hoddle and Lloyd. Before the century ends, let's all grow up. No?

British drug cheats Atlanta-bound

Legal threat over state-of-the-art testing may wreck campaign to keep rogue athletes out of Olympics

John Duncan

THE British Olympic Association could be forced to send athletes to the Olympics in Atlanta because it fears that testing procedures using the most up-to-date technology

may be legally challenged in Britain.

The BOA is determined to rid the British team of the small percentage of drug takers it believes are competing under its colours, and it will mount an extensive anti-drugs campaign in the next three weeks with the most sophisticated technology

available. Two hundred tests will be carried out among the 513 British athletes who have been confirmed for Atlanta.

As well as the normal testing at the International Olympic Committee's accredited laboratory at King's College, Chelsea, the samples taken will be analysed by the mass spectrometer at St Thomas's

hospital, which is similar to a new machine that in July will be used at a Games for the first time.

The machine, which costs £300,000, is the most sophisticated ever seen, and can detect drug use much further in the past than was previously possible. It will be IOC-accredited at Atlanta for the first time, but is being used for "research" around the world in the next month.

Research already carried out has produced startling results in weightlifting, where the international governing body recently checked a set of old samples. Under the old procedure 11 of the tests proved positive, but that figure rose to 76 using the new machine, according to the secretary of the federation, Tomas Ajan.

However, advisers to the British team admit that even if athletes test positive on the spectrometer at St Thomas's the BOA will not be able to prevent them travelling to Atlanta. The BOA will tell athletes of the results and advise them not to go, but it has been told that it cannot prevent athletes going should they insist on taking their places, because of a possible legal backlash over the relatively new technology involved.

Neither can the BOA warn the IOC of its suspicions, because the IOC is wary of national Olympic committees who recommend athletes for testing.

British governing bodies have already been informed of some of the findings of "research projects" from their sports, but the Sports Council will not disclose them.

Olympic sources say the new technology could leave Atlanta facing a huge positive-test problem similar to the fiasco before the 1983 Pan-American Games, when new testing technology was introduced and scores of competitors either withdrew without explanation or tested positive.

One British team source privately admits that the drugs arbitration procedure might be in danger of collapse if the weightlifting outcome were repeated in other sports.

The Sports Council has stepped up its drug testing in recent months and announced a record number of positives among British sportsmen and women this year, with the number of failures topping 80 for the first time.

However, the BOA has signalled its determination to avoid the drugs scandals that have plagued previous Olympics, and the latest campaign will cost it £500 per day. The fear hanging over Atlanta is that the new technology will trap more drug cheats than ever before, and the BOA says it will do everything it can to weed out cheats before they get to the Olympic village.

England's rugby union manager and great big enigmatically smiling gummy-bear is

STOP HAY FEVER BEFORE IT STARTS

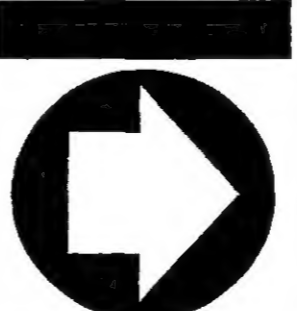
Syntaris is a unique hay fever formulation that when used up to a week before the start of the season, can stop your hay fever before it even starts.

Ask your pharmacist for more details.

Syntaris
Hay Fever Nasal Spray

Syntaris® is a registered trademark.
Roche Consumer Health, PO Box 8, Broadwater Road,
Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 3AY.

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL
Contains Flunisolide.



Like Disneyland, Evans's show is purportedly a place where fantasies can be indulged without real consequences. Both Disneyland and Evans's show spring from the same impulse: reality is boring, we can build something better.

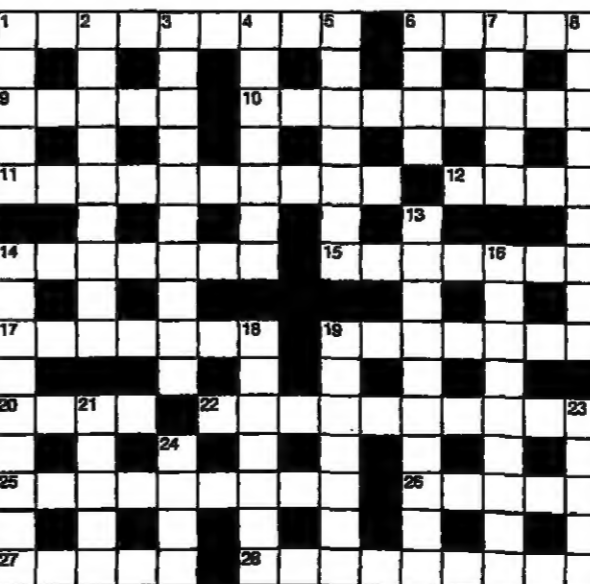
Disney had the technology, we have the carrot-topped cyborg.

Stuart Jeffries

Review page 4

Guardian Crossword No 20,667

Set by Janus

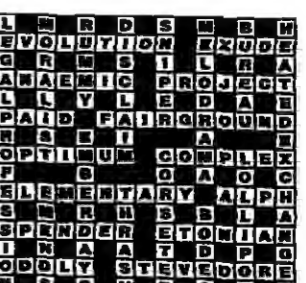


Across

- 1 Cathedral tenor role made difficult (5,4)
- 6 Arty boys reportedly easy to handle (5)
- 9 Go back over by return train (5)
- 10 Board to settle up-country (5-4)
- 11 Honourable directors apparently baffled? (5-5)
- 12 Mineral packed in metal canisters (4)
- 14 Closely investigates way back for servicemen? (7)
- 15 He is against operation on model (7)
- 17 Reinstate some interest or excitement (7)
- 19 Drink given to animal through coarse cloth (7)
- 20 Stone thrown over the French river (4)
- 22 Recall as soldier takes one in silence (10)

Down

- 1 Is she in Standard One? (5)
- 2 Structural features of detective medicines? (9)
- 3 Phrase for indication of musical feeling (10)
- 4 Deeds in bottles (7)
- 5 Measure lawyers proceed to put a ban on (7)
- 6 Support that is found in public relations (4)
- 7 One artist has it turned into a head-dress (5)
- 8 Impropriety of nothing to drink at end of year? (9)
- 13 Resistance at work-place (10)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,667

- 14 Vicarage attendant embracing crime (9)
- 16 Binding broken net with card first (3)
- 18 Where first lady pretended... (7)
- 19 ... tooth found in coach (7)
- 21 Approximately one round (5)
- 23 Some of them endeavour to improve (5)
- 24 The philosopher of the factory (4)

Solution tomorrow

Just published — The New Penguin Book of The Guardian Crosswords No 7, Price £3.99 from bookshops

Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 288 288. Calls cost 39p per min, cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by RTS

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.